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Southeast Asia Report



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AUSTRALIA

ENERGY MINISTER ON DECLINE IN OIL SELF-SUFFICIENCY

BK050230 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0130 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] The resources and energy minister, Senator Gareth Evans, says Australia is facing a rapid deterioration in oil self-sufficiency. He says that while Australia now has about 80 percent of sufficiency, by 1993 it would fall to about 40 percent.

The minister blamed a drop-off in the level of exploration despite higher world prices for oil. Senator Evans said there had been some renewal of exploration drilling in the Northwest shelf and the Timor Sea areas since prices firmed to more than \$27 [Australian dollars] a barrel late last year. However, he said the activity was nowhere near pre-1986 levels and was not expected to recover this year. Senator Evans believes prices will have to rise to more than \$30 a barrel for there to be a major resumption of exploration.

He also said Australian officials are concerned about South Africa's attempts to force its way into Australia's traditional Asian coal market. He said Australia sold coking coal to Japan and steaming coal to Taiwan, Thailand, and Malaysia.

Senator Evans was speaking at the World Economic Conference in Davos in Switzerland.

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CSO: 4200/313

CAIRNS GROUP STRATEGY AT TRADE TALKS DISCUSSED

BK010940 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] The Australian minister for agriculture, Mr Kerin, has had trade talks in Canberra with the visiting Canadian minister for agriculture, Mr John Wise, focusing on the role of the so-called Cairns Group of exporting nations. Canada is a leading member of the Cairns Group--a 14-member group, including Australia and Argentina, which met in Queensland in last year to discuss subsidization and the crisis in world agricultural trade.

Mr Wise, who is in Australia until 7 February, met with Mr Kerin to discuss the group's tactics and position at a series of forthcoming international trade gatherings as well as the current round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Their meeting came just after the initiative of the prime minister, Mr Hawke, in proposing, during an opening speech to the world economic forum meeting in Switzerland, the freezing of agricultural subsidies by the United States and the European Community.

Mr Kerin also discussed with Mr Wise the position the Cairns Group will adopt at a meeting of wheat exporting countries in Santiago in the middle of the month. That group includes most of the Cairns Group plus the United States and the European Community grain exporters. Australia will be represented there by the trade minister, Mr Dawkins.

Meanwhile, Mr Kerin leaves for Davos in Switzerland tomorrow to fulfill the trade push promised by Mr Hawke in Geneva for a liberalization of agricultural trade.

In Geneva, Mr Hawke was briefed by Australian officials on the latest developments and negotiations being held within the General Agreement on Tariffs Trade, GATT. Australian officials said later that the Cairns Group was emerging as a significant third force in international trade negotiations.

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CSO: 4200/313

BRIEFS

AID TO CYCLONE VICTIMS IN ISLANDS--Australia will provide \$100,000 [currency not specified] in emergency cash assistance to cyclone victims in Fiji and the Cook Islands. The foreign minister, Mr Hayden, says the money will provide short-term humanitarian relief for the victims of cyclone "Rita" and "Sally." At least 2,000 people in the Cook Islands are reported to be homeless in the aftermath of cyclone "Sally" which devastated the main island of Rarotonga last week. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 9 Jan 87] /9599

FRANCE VETOES MEETING--The French Government has vetoed meetings planned for this month by an Australian senator. Queensland's Labor Party Senator, Margaret Reynolds, was expecting to meet French civil servants in Paris as part of a private study tour. However, she has been told the meetings will not take place because of the French ban on contacts with the Australian Government or its policies on New Caledonia and nuclear testing in the Pacific. From London Malcolm Downing reports: [Begin Downing recording] The Australian Embassy in Paris was arranging the meetings which Senator Reynolds wanted to hold with French officials on [word indistinct] concern and regional development policies. Senator Reynolds told me she assumed that as a backbencher she would not be affected by the French Government's decision to stop all ministerial contacts, but this had now been extended to all aspects of official policy. She had been told that she was still free to visit France, but had decided not to do so on principle in the circumstances. [End recording] [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Jan 87] /9599

MORE AID TO SOUTH PACIFIC NATIONS--Australia is to provide an extra \$15 million [currency not specified] in aid to South Pacific island nations this financial year ending in June. The foreign minister, Mr Hayden, reveals this at the end of the Australian-Japan ministerial talks in Canberra. Radio Australia's Canberra office says the decision to include increased aid was made by the cabinet in response to concern that the island nations may have been too severely hit by aid cuts in the last budget. Some \$8 million of the increase will go toward the establishment of a trust fund for Tuvalu. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 10 Jan 87] /9599

AID TO COMOROS--Australia is to provide \$30,000 as an immediate cash grant to assist victims of this month's severe cyclone in the Comoros Islands near

Madagascar. The foreign affairs minister, Mr Hayden, said the money would be used to provide shelter and humanitarian assistance to victims of the cyclone. Mr Hayden said the cyclone caused major damage to schools, hospitals, crops, roads, and houses leaving many people homeless on three islands in the group. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 15 Jan 87 BK] /9599

AID PROGRAM TO PHILIPPINES—Australia is to supply the Philippines with 25,000 tons of steel as a first transaction in a new Australian aid program. The foreign minister, Mr Hayden, says the steel, valued at more than \$7 million [currency not specified], will be supplied under the new sector inputs program to improve Australian exports. Mr Hayden said the steel from BHP was expected to be shipped to the Philippines National Steel Corp. in May. He said the sector inputs program was an important part of Australia's expanded aid program to the Philippines which aimed to support the social services and development programs of the Aquino government. Australia's total development assistance to the Philippines is expected to reach \$25 million in a financial year ending next June—an increase of 50 percent over the previous year. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jan 87] /9599

COAL TALKS IN TOKYO—A report from Tokyo says Australian coal producers have accepted deep cuts in price and tonnage in annual contracts with (? 10 percent). [Excerpt] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jan 87 BK] /9599

NAVAL SHIPBUILDING PROJECT—The federal government has announced plans for the biggest naval shipbuilding program in Australia's history. The minister for defense, Mr Beazley, has given details of a \$3,500 million [currency not further specified] to build a new class of eight light patrol frigates for the Australian Navy. The government will invite designs from around the world, but the construction is planned to take place in one or two Australian shipyards. Mr Beazley says the ships will meet requirements identified by the Navy and the Dobb Report into Australia's defenses which called for large numbers of fast long-range ships to operate throughout the region. He says he is confident the program will be finished within the relevant cost and time constraints with the first vessel completed in the early 1990's. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Jan 87] /9599

TRACTORS FROM USSR—The New South Wales Government is considering buying Soviet-built tractors instead of American or European machines because of international trade balances. The state agriculture minister, Mr Hallam, says the Soviet Union has been buying Australian wheat worth hundreds of millions of dollars for decades yet the trade balance is 10 to 1 against the Soviets. He said that on the other hand Australia has been buying American and European farm machinery and these countries were engaging in a trade war against Australia. Mr Hallam says government departments are already testing the Soviet tractors. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 20 Jan 87 BK] /9599

NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER TO UK—The retiring president of the Senate, Senator Douglas McClelland, has been appointed Australia's new high commissioner in

London. The appointment, announced by the foreign affairs minister, Mr Hayden, had been expected since late last year when Senator McClelland made known his intention to retire from the Senate. [Excerpt] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jan 87 BK] /9599

PRC COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AGREEMENT--Australia's Parry Corp. has signed an agreement with China's government-run television station to build a \$66 million [currency not further specified] international communications center in central Beijing. Mr Kevin Parry, chairman of the Australian corporation, says the 40,000 square meter building will be finalized for the 1990 Asian Games scheduled for Beijing. Another spokesman for the Parry organization says it will provide 50 percent of the finance for the joint venture--one of Australia's biggest with China. China's Central Television will provide 30 percent of the cost and the China National Instrument Import and Export Corp. will take the remaining 20 percent. The building will have offices for international news organizations and international communications system and modern studio and film editing facilities. It was also planned to include a movie theater, shops, a cultural center, and accommodation for visiting journalists. [Excerpts] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jan 87 BK] /9599

MORE CYCLONE RELIEF AID TO FIJI--Australia is to donate nearly \$3.5 million [Australian dollars], or U.S. \$2.25 million, in aid to Fiji for victims of Cyclone Raja which hit the region during late December. One man was killed in the cyclone which caused damage estimated at \$21 million to crops, buildings, roads, and communications. The Australian aid follows an emergency grant of nearly \$100,000 announced by the foreign affairs minister, Mr Hayden, early last month. The aid will be spent on housing, schools, equipment, and a small grant scheme. The Fiji Government says it has thanked Australia for its rapid response and willingness to ensure the rehabilitation program is quickly implemented. The aid package was negotiated during a brief visit to Canberra last month by Dr (James Mapaj) of the prime minister's department. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 4 Feb 87] /9599

CSO: 4200/313

this year to run smoothly. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja expressed the hope that President Corazon Aquino's victory can be translated into domestic stability for which the Filipinos are working. The new Constitution plebiscite in the Philippines has stabilized Mrs Corazon Aquino's position as the head of state and head of government in the Philippines for the next 6 years. [Text] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 4 Feb 87] /9599

CSO: 4213/45

COMMENTARY BLASTS U.S., SOUTH AFRICA FOR WAR IN MOZAMBIQUE

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 5 Dec 86 p 4

[Commentary: "Victory Must Go to the People of Mozambique"]

[Text] Mozambique has been thrown into greater turmoil following the death of Samora Machel, the president of the People's Republic of Mozambique. With the support of the powerholders in South Africa and the C.E.R., the revolutionaries, who call themselves the "Mozambique National Resistance," have stepped up their terrorist activities by attacking various places such as the orphans home in Karphum.

As is known, after Mozambique achieved independence in 1975, the imperialists and South African segregationists looked for ways to block the progress of the people of this country. Not only did they impose economic sanctions, but they gave support to the revolutionary terrorists in order to use them as a tool to oppose the new way of life of the people of Mozambique. Finally, they decided to kill Mozambique's leader. Today, the independent nations of Africa have declared that the death of Mr Machel was a barbaric action by Pretoria and other enemies of the Mozambican people. Various incidents have shown that Pretoria and Washington are cooperating with each other in order to oppose Mozambique. For example, the Heritage Foundation, which is closely tied to the White House, invited representatives of the terrorist group to discuss matters. At the same time, Weinberger, the U.S. secretary of defense, and Ugashi, the director of the C.E.R. Criminal Investigation Organization, called for more U.S. support for those in Mozambique whom they refer to as freedom fighters, who are like the UNITA [National Union for Total Independence of Angola] in Angola. As a result of the hostile activities of South Africa and these terrorists, since 1975 Mozambique has suffered material losses totaling \$4 billion, and approximately 100,000 people have been killed. The South African segregationists have built a small airbase inside Mozambique in order to transport weapons and other war materials to the terrorists. Just before the death of Mr Machel, Pretoria expelled several thousand Mozambican miners from South Africa in order to exert economic pressure on Mozambique.

All of the things mentioned above are barbaric activities of the imperialists, who are carrying on neocolonialist activities and opposing the countries that are trying to make progress, which dissatisfies the American imperialists and their underlings. However, with great confidence in their ability to wage a

successful struggle against the colonialists, Mr Albert Shissano, who has been chosen as the new head of the party and government of the People's Republic of Mozambique, recently announced that the most pressing task of the Mozambican people is to eliminate the reactionaries completely. He has called on the people to unite and cooperate in preserving the fruits of the revolution and building socialism. With the great determination and bravery of the Mozambican people and the support of the socialist countries and progressive movements in the world, the Mozambican people will certainly defeat the terrorists and put an end to outside interference in order to preserve their independence and sovereign power.

11943

CSO: 4206/50

NOUHAK DISCUSSES WEAKNESSES, DELAYS IN ECONOMIC WORK

Vientiane **PASASON** in **Lao** 10 Dec 86 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Nouhak Phounsavan, a member of the Politburo, a member of the Party Central Committee, and the first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, by a reporter for **PRAVDA**, the organ of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] Would you discuss the important matters that took place before the plenum of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], particularly:

- A. On the economic front.
- B. Life within the party.
- C. Social life (with examples from various provinces).
- D. Directions in national socioeconomic development.

[Answer] The Party Central Committee and the entire party began making preparations for the party's fourth plenum last year.

On the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the LPR, we made an all-round summary of the achievements of the revolution. We feel that tremendous achievements have been scored on all fronts during these past 10 years. The revolutionary forces have expanded rapidly, and political bases have been established and developed in many localities throughout the country. We have begun building the scientific and technical base of socialism. This base is expanding well. Production has expanded, and the standard of living has improved greatly. Clear changes have been made on a number of fronts. International relations have expanded continually. These are initial factors that are enabling the revolution to make progress and that are giving our country a new appearance. Our victory is of great international significance.

Along with the achievements mentioned above, we have studied matters and clearly see our weaknesses and shortcomings in carrying out the two strategic tasks, that is, defending the nation and building socialism. One of our weaknesses is that we lack a profound understanding of the struggle between

the two paths. There are still difficulties in formulating plans, and we have been slow in implementing the plans and policies, such as building an agro-forestry-industrial economic structure. In the past, we put communications and transportation at the end and gave priority to trade. There are still weaknesses in modifying the cooperative economic management administrative mechanisms.

At the beginning of the year, many localities, divisions and departments, and bases throughout the country launched an emulation movement in order to greet the fourth plenum of the party. Political meetings were held throughout the party and armed forces. Meetings were held at various party echelons in order to discuss matters and submit ideas for the political report of the Party Central Committee to be presented at the fourth plenum of the party. At the meetings, people engaged in criticism and self-criticism. As a result, many localities, divisions and departments, and bases have a deeper understanding of the lines and policies of the party. They evaluated the situation in the localities and at their bases. Plans were formulated at the primary level. At the same time, many new factors and many outstanding examples in various places were discovered.

In recent years, particularly since the third plenum, a number of localities and bases have scored many outstanding achievements. I would like to give a few examples.

Phongsaly Province is a mountainous province with various ethnic minority groups. Communications are difficult. But it has succeeded in maintaining political security and social order. Besides this, it has become self-sufficient in food.

Champasak Province is a plains province. It has completed the transformation to agricultural cooperatives and is engaged in intensive cultivation. Paddy yields have increased to 605 kg per person.

Saravane Province has undergone clear changes during this past year. Manpower in the province has increased. Sources of export goods have been created, and order has been maintained.

Vientiane Province has maintained political security and social order. The various movements have made progress. The capital has led the way in the production of the second rice crop and other crops. At the same time, many units and production bases have increased production on various fronts and produced new types of goods to satisfy the needs of the people and to support exports.

The entire party and military and all the Lao people are emulating enthusiastically in order to achieve results to greet the opening of the fourth plenum of the party.

During the past 10 years, with great effort and with support from abroad, particularly the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and the other fraternal socialist countries, the Lao people have created a revolutionary spirit, giving the country a new appearance. We are now at the beginning of the transitional

period, in which we are by-passing the capitalist stage, and we still have various weaknesses. We were a colonial society with low production. This was a "natural" production that produced only enough for domestic consumption. Even though our country has many resources, we have not had a chance to conduct surveys and exploit these resources. According to a report by the United Nations, Laos is one of the 20 poorest and most underdeveloped countries in the world.

For these reasons, the political report of the Party Central Committee stipulates 12 lines to provide direction in expanding the economy. From now until the year 2000, we must overcome the difficulties in order to make progress and complete the stipulated tasks by the end of this century.

As called for in the second 5-year plan (1986-1990), the party and people will carry out the following:

1. The food crops and food program: Yields will reach 2 to 2.2 million tons by 1990. In this, paddy yields will reach 1.7 to 1.8 million tons.
2. The program to limit forest destruction: An effort will be made to put an end to slash-burn agriculture and protect the environment. Plans have been made to harvest trees efficiently.
3. The program to produce miscellaneous goods and goods for export: We will begin by exploiting the resources on the agricultural and forestry fronts and mobilizing the great skills of the people.
4. The communications and transportation program: We will try to pave highways 8, 9, and 10 and certain sections of Highway 13. We will build four large and medium-sized bridges. We will extend the roads in order to connect province with province, district with district, and canton with canton and ensure convenient communications in all the districts.
5. The program to reform the educational structure: We will train and strengthen the cadres and gradually build the new man and the new society.

In order to carry out these tasks efficiently, we must quickly build a new apparatus to control the economy. As for the problems mentioned above, ways to expand the economy will be presented at the party's fourth plenum. On this occasion, through PRAVDA, I would like to give warm greetings to the people of the Soviet Union. I wish the communist party and Soviet people success in scoring even greater achievements in implementing the resolution of the 27th Plenum of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in making the Soviet Union even stronger on every front, and in making it a strong pillar of socialism and a bulwark of peace and world revolution.

11943

CSO: 4206/50

BRIEFS

XEKONG LUMBER PRODUCTION--Construction on the first lumber mill in Xekong Province has been completed. The mill has a production capacity of more than 40 cubic meters of lumber per day. This lumber mill went into operation at the end of 1985. It is equipped with modern saws. Today, this mill is operating normally in order to produce sufficient lumber to support construction activities within the province and to help industry expand. [Text] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 10 Dec 86 p 1] 11943

FRONT DELEGATION RETURN FROM AFGHANISTAN--Vientiane, 28 Jan (KPL)--A delegation of the Lao Front for National Construction led by its Vice President Bolang Boualapha, member of the LPRP CC, arrived here yesterday after attending the 2nd Assembly of the National Fatherland Front of Afghanistan [which] opened on 14 January in Kabul. Meeting the delegation at the airport were Nhiavu Lobaliayao, standing committee member of the LFNC CC, and other officials. Besides attending the front conference, the delegation also engaged in other business aiming at expanding the two countries' friendship relations. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 28 Jan 87 BK] /9274

CSO: 4200/316

BRIEFS

RECEPTION OF TV PROGRAMS OVERSEAS--TV Malaysia programs are enjoyed by viewers from as far as Papua New Guinea and the Christmas Island in the Pacific as well as the neighboring countries like Indonesia, Thailand, and Singapore. Information Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said today the ministry received a letter from Papua New Guinea 2 days ago telling him TV Malaysia transmission reception is clear in that country and its programs well received by the people. The letter said residents of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea's capital, found Malaysia's television programs more interesting than those of Australian television stations, especially the news coverage of world events. Speaking at the joint opening of annual general meeting of United Malays National Organization branches in the (Musang) state constituency in Kota Baharu, he said the Malay community in the Christmas Island had also written to say that they were able to receive television programs like [names indistinct]. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 30 Jan 87] /9599

PHILIPPINE PLEBISCITE VIEWED--Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir has said it is Malaysia's wish to see a strong and resilient Philippines as this will enhance regional stability and resilience. He was commenting on President Corazon Aquino's last night plebiscite victory. He said Malaysia [as heard] can look forward to a period of stability. The Philippine Government can now concentrate to resolve problems affecting the country which have to be addressed in earnest. [Excerpt] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 4 Feb 87] /9599

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS DEPORTED--The Kelantan Immigration Department sent back more than 1,000 illegal immigrants from Thailand, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Bangladesh throughout last year. Its spokesman said today that most of them, who were working as laborers, had been arrested in plantations and construction sites, while a small number were arrested while begging and roaming around urban areas. He said the department will further step up a campaign to arrest illegal immigrants as many of them are believed to be in Kelantan, particularly in plantations in the hinterland. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1230 GMT 4 Feb 87 BK] /9599

CSO: 4213/46

TRADE MINISTER ON TRADE EXPANSION WITH AUSTRALIA

BK040858 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] New Zealand's minister of trade and industry, Mr David Caygill, says his government wants to see an expansion of the Agreement on Closer Economic Relations [CER] with Australia to remove all tariffs, quotas, and license restrictions on trans-Tasman trade.

Speaking to a Radio Australia reporter, (Terry Shanton), in Wellington, Mr Caygill said only when these barriers had been removed should moves be made to extend the agreement to cover a broader range of activities such as service industries, transport, and communications.

Mr Caygill said CER was working extremely well with New Zealand's figures for trade with Australia having increased to about the same level as Australian trade to New Zealand.

He said although New Zealand wanted an expansion of CER, Wellington was realistic and did not expect to get things that were not in Australia's interests. Mr Caygill said the CER agreement which is to be reviewed next year had been a great psychological benefit to New Zealand manufacturers in giving them confidence that they could sell their goods overseas, not only in Australia, but in other countries as well. It had also given confidence to both countries from the knowledge that despite changes in government a secure market would continue to exist between them.

Mr Caygill said he expected Australia to continue as the largest overseas source of investment in New Zealand industry and this provided further (? strengthening of) the CER agreement.

/9599

CSO: 4200/311

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BRIEFS

FISHERY AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN TERMINATED—A major tuna fishing agreement between Japan and Papua New Guinea has been terminated only days before a scheduled visit to Port Moresby by the Japanese foreign minister, Mr Kuranari. Papua New Guinea's minister for fishery, Mr Neville Bourne, said the agreement was ended because members of the Japanese Fishing Association had refused to pay increased operating fees. The Japanese fishermen said they could not afford the 100 percent increase in fees which would amount to 10 percent of their total catch. However, Mr Bourne said his government was entitled to a fairer return than it now received. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Jan 87] /9604

JAPANESE AID TO PNG—A report from Tokyo says Japan will extend a loan of \$61 million [currency not specified] to Papua New Guinea to help finance construction of the (Yonk) Hydroelectric Dam and to purchase power generators. A statement from Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund said the loan was repayable over 30 years after a grace period of 10 years and carried an annual interest rate of 4 percent. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 87] /9604

CSO: 4200/294

PHILIPPINES

MANGLAPUS 'SATISFIED' WITH EUROPEAN AID TRIP

HK200243 Hong Kong AFP in English 0159 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Rome, 20 Jan (AFP)—Filipino Christian Democratic leader Raul S. Manglapus said here Monday that he was "very satisfied" with the results of his efforts to line up European aid for the Philippines.

After a 15-day tour which earlier took him to Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and Norway, former senator Manglapus told a news conference that he had complained to Europeans that they were not buying enough Filipino farm products.

Speaking fluent Italian, he said he had also given out a list of industrial products, including electronic components, which his country wanted to export.

Mr Manglapus, head of the National Union of Christian Democrats (NUCD), said he was particularly encouraged by his talks in Italy, where he met such leading Christian Democrats as President Francesco Cossiga and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

He said he hoped that after passage of a new Italian foreign aid bill, the Philippines would be able to receive "direct subsidies" rather than loans.

In answer to questions about the Philippines, he said that the New People's Army, a guerrilla movement originally financed by China, was receiving money collected in Europe by church fund-raisers, especially in the Netherlands, as well as by a former priest in West Germany.

/9599

CSO: 4200/312

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS DECLINE 40 PERCENT IN 1986

HK010727 Manila THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 1 Feb 87 p 8

[Text] The total foreign equity investments in domestic stock corporations in 1986 declined by 40.7 percent.

Investments report for 1986 released by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) showed foreign investments last year totaled P885.4 million, P606.6 million less than the P1.492 billion posted in 1985.

The SEC attributed the decline to a 43-percent decrease in foreign reinvestment. Only P819.5 million was infused into the equity of 95 existing local stock firms compared to the P1.438 billion in 1985.

Foreign investments in newly organized domestic firms, however, reached P65.9 million. This amount was 21.1 percent, or P11.5 million, more than the P54.4 million invested by foreigners in 1985.

This amount was infused in 567 newly organized domestic firms, 38 more than the 529 firms with foreign equity in 1985.

The P65.9 million posted last year is the second-highest record achieved during the last 10 years. The highest was recorded in 1981, when foreign investments in new corporations reached P78.4 million.

The Americans were the biggest investors, infusing P360.5 million, or 40.7 percent of the total foreign equity.

But industry manufacturing got the biggest share of foreign investments—P655.6 million, or some 74 percent of the total. More than 90 percent of this amount were reinvestments in existing manufacturing firms. Only 3.66 percent, or P24.053 million, were new investments.

Of the new firms, the wholesale and retail trade sector got the second biggest incursion of foreign investments with P14.126 million, or 21.4 percent. It was followed by the financing, insurance, and business services sector with P10.6 million, or 16 percent; agriculture, fishery, and forestry, P5.5 million, or 8.3 percent; transportation and communications, P4.77 million, or

7.24 percent; mining and quarrying, P2.99 million, or 4.5 percent; and community, social, and personal services, P2.72 million, or 4.1 percent.

The SEC report also showed that 15 new foreign corporations were licensed to operate in the country in 1986. This brings the total number of foreign firms registered with the SEC to 1,047.

/9599

CSO: 4200/312

SENIOR DEFENSE OFFICIALS DISCUSS BREAKDOWN OF TALKS

HK261410 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] Manila, 26 Jan (AFP)--While the [26 January 1987 Mendiola] demonstration took place, senior defense officials held a meeting at a nearby military base to assess the security situation following the shooting and prior to the 2 February plebiscite on a new constitution, the official PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY (PNA) reported.

PNA quoted Rafael Ileto, the defense minister, as having said the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) was using the shooting as an excuse to pull out of peace talks with the government.

Peace talks between the government and the rebels were indefinitely suspended Thursday, just hours after the violence outside the palace.

Both sides cited an alleged assassination plot against members of both negotiating teams as the reason for the suspension of the talks.

Newspapers here reported Sunday that the talks had collapsed completely and that the rebels had gone underground.

PNA said Mr Ileto had also expressed fear that a 60-day ceasefire between the government and the rebels was in danger of collapse. The truce expires 7 February.

"While we pledged to honor the ceasefire, there are serious breaches committed by the insurgents and this will only bring us back to where we started," Mr Ileto was quoted as telling senior military officers.

/9599

CSO: 4200/312

ILETO WARNS OF RETURN TO 'VERY POWERFUL PRESIDENT'

HK261301 Manila THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 25 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] Defense Minister Rafael Ileto warned yesterday certain sectors trying to destabilize the government by disrupting the forthcoming Charter plebiscite that a "very powerful president" backed by the military will emerge should their disruption succeed.

Ileto issued the statement after both the defense and military establishment received reports that the pullout of the National Democratic Front (NDF) from the peace talks "may be part of a well-planned effort to destabilize the government" and force it (the government) to either postpone, if not cancel, the plebiscite.

Ileto explained that "if this happens and the plebiscite for the ratification of the proposed draft Charter is not pushed through, then the government will probably revert to the Freedom Constitution" where "the military will have no recourse" but to follow "a very powerful president."

Ileto's warning came on the heels of observations that the recent massacre on Mendiola of 18 leftist farmers is helping President Aquino's critics gain support for the rejection of the draft Charter.

Ileto did not comment on the possibility of such a rejection, but he explained that if the Freedom Charter "goes into effect anew...the people would suffer" under a "powerful president."

It will be recalled that under the existing Freedom Constitution, there is no legislative body and the law-making function of government is vested upon the president, a setup which makes her technically a "dictator" vested with powers other than the normal executive ones.

Ileto, at the same time, expressed regret over the reported NDF pullout from the peace talks which was announced the same day the 18 farmers were killed.

Ileto hinted that the "regrettable" move of the NDF would mean renewed fighting.

/9599
CSO: 4200/312

FARMERS PRESS AQUINO TO EXPAND LAND REFORM, OTHER CONCERNS

HK240610 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Jan 87 pp 1, 3

[Article by staff member Malou Mangahas]

[Text] Cabanatuan City--Farmers yesterday pledged to President Aquino their "liberating yes" to the draft Constitution but also asked her to assure ample representation in government for the poor, expand land reform, and bring down prices of fertilizers and farm inputs.

Leaders of farmers' organizations in Central Luzon met with Mrs Aquino at the Wesleyan University gym in this province, the country's rice granary.

Earlier in the day, the president inaugurated at Magsaysay district the first water systems projects completed under the "Tulungansa Tubigan" [cooperation to add water] program sponsored by government, private sector, and citizens' groups. It takes off from the "Tubigan ng Kalayaan" [water systems of freedom] project of the Philippine Business for Social Progress [PBSP] which aims to construct 425 water systems for 31,087 households in 15 provinces.

In a dialogue with the president, farmer Serafin Bautista said his colleagues were bothered by "unclear provisions on land reform" of the draft charter which may be scuttled by the "rich who alone may win seats in Congress."

Bautista said farmers had tried all means to improve their lot, including armed struggle. He said government should now take a clear stand to implement a thorough land reform program.

Lucia Arce of a woman peasants' group asked Mrs Aquino to implement the setting up of people's councils as she had promised in February 1986 "to assure the participation of poor people in government." She observed that 1 year of the new administration "has not dismantled some repressive structures" of the old regime, "and the farmers do not feel they are being consulted by government."

A third spokesman called the president's attention to debts farmers had incurred as a result, he said, of the use of expensive high-yielding rice varieties and fertilizers that had reportedly been forced upon them by the International Rice Research Institute [IRRI].

Mrs Aquino explained that the mechanism for consultation with the people was already in place through regional development councils and people's economic councils of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. She said she has asked the Ministry of Agriculture to review IRRI's rice-varieties program and to reduce fertilizer prices.

Agriculture Minister Ramon Mitra reported that under the government, fertilizers now cost only P110 a bag, down from the past regime's P275 a bag. The country is now buying fertilizers from cheaper country-sources, unlike the old government which bought high-priced fertilizers from countries that are donors of the World Bank, Mitra said.

Mitra said government has also scrapped the monopoly over fertilizers of four former traders who were all friends of former President Marcos. Today, he said, 48 traders are in the fertilizer business.

About 1,500 people witnessed the turnover of the water system projects from PBSP to a civic organization in the area. Outside the gym, 5,000 other people waited for hours to hear Mrs Aquino speak for a few minutes.

The president urged approval of the charter, saying the document will safeguard democracy and grant government the stability it needs to implement programs for economic recovery. She noted that the people seemed "less afraid now to speak their minds, unlike in the time of the old regime when they hesitated to attend opposition rallies."

She assured the farmers that not only the rich will get seats in Congress [but that the Constitution had] provided for sectoral representatives whom she will appoint. For those without lands, she cited government's program for rural employment as possible relief measure.

There are about 150,000 voters in this province where a significant anti-charter drive has been mounted by the New People's Army, the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, and the Iglesia ni Cristo [Church of Christ].

Local leaders said the Charter may just the same get at least 70 percent "yes" votes because the province's political patriarch, former Gov Eduardo Joson of the KBL had announced he approves of the charter. Joson was governor for 26 years until he was replaced by Noli Santos of the PDP-LABAN [Philippine Democratic Party-lakas ng Bayan].

The NPA, on the other hand, reportedly holds rein in the towns of Guimba, Talavera, Bongabon and San Jose. Officials here said the Iglesia ni Cristo leaders had said the rebels were threatening them into voting against the charter.

/9599

CSO: 4200/312

SETTLEMENTS MINISTRY, MEDIA OFFICE ABOLISHED

HK051043 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 5 Feb 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] President Aquino has abolished the Office of Media Affairs (OMA) and the Ministry of Human Settlements (MHS).

In Executive Order No 85, she authorized Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo and Deputy Secretary for Human Settlements Herminio Aquino to supervise the phase-out of the two agencies in a way that valid contracts are not impaired.

Mrs Aquino ordered the transfer of OMA communication facilities, records, and equipment to the appropriate agency under the Office of the President. Those from the MHS she allocated to appropriate existing ministries and agencies which will be created upon Aquino's recommendation.

Employees who will be separated from service will receive benefits as provided by existing laws.

"The abolition of the OMA and the MHS which served as private and partisan machinery during the previous administration fulfills the firm commitment of the new administration to use public funds for vital services to the people," Mrs Aquino said.

She noted that the OMA "has failed in its role as the government's information and media policy arm," while the MHS "has eroded the effective, efficient, and economical delivery of public services by duplicating the functions of other line ministries."

The president's order was signed 12 December 1986 and took effect 1 January, but the information was released by Malacanang only yesterday.

/9599

CSO: 4200/312

COMELEC REJECTS PNB REGISTRATION PETITION

Communist Ties Cited

HK240122 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Text] The Comelec [Commission on Elections] yesterday [23 January] rejected the petition by the leftist Partido ng Bayan [PNB--People's Party] to register as a political party and take part in general elections. The Comelec voted four to three to reject a petition from the Partido ng Bayan seeking to register as a political party for congressional elections scheduled for 11 May. Military and opposition politicians have accused the PNB of being a communist front. Party officials deny the charges.

PNB Protests, Seeks Appeal

HK261512 Hong Kong AFP in English 1456 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] Manila, 26 Jan (AFP)--The leftist People's Party (PNB) [Partido ng Bayan] called on its members Monday to stage demonstrations outside local offices of the government election watchdog body to protest the rejection of its application for accreditation as a political party.

PNB leaders condemned the decision by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) at a news conference Monday, calling it "political persecution" and a "violation of the precept of equal protection of the law."

Comelec Friday turned down a PNB request that it be allowed to officially register as a political party. The PNB, founded by former communist rebels, is the Philippines' only openly leftist party.

Comelec said the main reason the application was rejected was because the PNB failed to renounce violence in its by-laws and constitution. Under the ruling, PNB candidates could run in elections as independents but would be barred from fielding poll watchers at polling places.

Jose Castro, a party vice-president, said the PNB would ask Comelec to reconsider its decision and if necessary seek help from the Supreme Court. PNB leaders also rejected Comelec's statement that the party had no nationwide standing. The PNB has some 500,000 members, they said, calling on them to "make their existence felt" at local Comelec offices.

The PNB leaders added that the party is committed to parliamentary struggle and would not use violence to achieve its ends.

COMELEC DISSOLVES LANA O PRECINCTS, DIMAPORO REACTS

HK261049 Hong Kong AFP in English 1038 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] Manila, 26 Jan (AFP)--A Moslem opposition leader Monday threatened to launch a new separatist movement in the southern Philippines if the government refused to restore hundreds of dissolved voting precincts.

Ali Dinaporo, deposed President Ferdinand Marcos' chief political ally on the southern island of Mindanao, also told a news conference here that his followers would "prevent" next Monday's plebiscite on a new constitution from taking place in two provinces.

He said he would "personally lead another secessionist movement in the south" if the government did not restore 1,308 voting precincts it abolished in the two provinces. Precincts range from a few dozen to hundreds of voters.

The Commission on Elections [Comelec] this month dissolved 1,308 voting precincts in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur Provinces, which Mr Dinaporo once ruled as governor, due to alleged anomalies in voter registration.

Mr Dinaporo, 68, has long been accused of creating "ghost precincts, in the form of supposed rural villages that exist only on paper, in order to manipulate vote counts in his region during the rule of Mr Marcos.

He said the Comelec dissolved the precincts because the government feared it could hardly get 10 percent of the vote in his area.

/9599

CSO: 4200/312

CABINET MINISTER HITS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION EFFECTIVENESS

Manila MR. & MS. (Special Edition) in English 12-18 Dec 86 pp 15-17

[Article by Roland Pascual]

[Text]

DID this high-ranking Cabinet Minister speak too soon? Two Presidential committees, alleges he, have yet to be deserving of people's trust and Malacanang's confidence. The Presidential Committee on Human Rights (PCHR), for instance, has yet to prove its effectivity.

Created on March 18, 1986, PCHR is expected to run consistent with the government's commitment "to uphold and respect

people's civil liberties and human rights". At least three Palace memoranda were issued instructing the Commission to prioritize the respect for human rights.

Eight months after the PCHR's creation, do we hear again from the Cabinet Minister? Any updates from the horse's mouth?

The following periodic complaints inventory covers the period from 18 March 1986 to 15 November 1986:

*20 of 691 cases filed have been solved: six on arrest and detention; seven on pending releases of political prisoners; five on salvaging victims; one on torture; and one on serious physical injury:

*The total number of cases is one broken down as follows:

Salvaging	274
Disappearances	90
Torture	77
Harassment	66
Arson	<u>46</u>
(Unclassified—)	<u>138</u>
	691

*89 cases were filed from Region II (Southern Tagalog); 62 from Region III (Cagayan Valley);

*Five fact-finding missions were sent to Cagayan, Kalina-Apayao, Negros Oriental, Panay Island, Lopez, Quezon and Lucena City.

Of the 17 listed in the inventory as human rights violations, salvaging ranks first (274, mostly committed in Central Mindanao); disappearances (90, mostly in Southern Tagalog and the National Capital Region); and arson (37, mostly in Central Visayas).

The PCHR is basically an advisory and consultative body. To date, it has filed 11 proposed principal laws, measures and/or policies with the President, three of which were already acted upon by virtue of executive orders: enforcement of human rights education at both formal and informal levels; making punishable crimes the use of torture, other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, unexplained or forced disappearances and extra-legal executions (salvaging); education and training of all police, military and other arresting and investigating personnel, especially those in charge of detention and convict, prisoners. The Civil Service Commission is also expected to include knowledge of human rights in its qualifying exams. While all these have yet to be thoroughly implemented, the PCHR documenting team continues to receive cases of human rights violations.

Admittedly, the number of violations have lessened relative to those documented

in the period immediately preceding. But PCHR and Task Force Detainees (an independent human rights monitoring group) claim that the methods of the savagery have worsened. Meanwhile, all other PCHR policy recommendations were enshrined in the proposed Constitution, with Human Rights having a separate article all its own. The Charter likewise proposes that the PCHR be made a permanent presidential commission.

PCHR representatives sit in at regular meetings of the Ministry of Justice's Sub-Committee on Political Prisoners; its lawyers continue to fan out to the provinces; and it has been closely coordinating with the MECS regarding

the implementation of the inclusion of human rights in the school curriculum. But it has only one regional unit to date. PCHR Davao is supposed to be its "pilot regional unit".

Last Tuesday, Dec. 9, Presidential military adviser Gen. J. P. Magno lamented the fact that "investigations of the abuses of the NPA" have not been carried out. The military, however, has recently issued statements saying it would create its own committee to do just that. PCHR reasons it is practically impossible to summon allegedly "guilty" rebels as they should precisely to be outlawed.

It is to be recalled that Gen. Ramos' 25 June 1986 letter called the PCHR's attention to "recently un-

earthed atrocities of subversive terrorists (as evidenced by mass graves, among others)". On the other hand, the PCHR promptly responded: Executive Order No. 8 tasked the Commission with investigating cases "committed by officers or agents of the national government or persons acting in their place or stead or under their orders, express or implied".

Neither the NAFP nor the armed underground Left deny that the New People's Army has increased its armed combatants since the February Revolution that the growth is lesser than that of the period immediately preceding. But the ceasefire is on. Now, what has that high-ranking Cabinet member got to say?

NATIONAL WEEKLY COLUMNIST HITS CHARTER PROVISIONS

Manila MR. & MS. (Special Edition) in English 16-22 Jan 87 p 4

["Fridays" by Vicente Albano Pacis: "Third Revolution Under Draft—More Frequent Unleashing of People Power Due"]

[Text]

DURING the past regime, when public service had been converted into self-service for the most part, there were repeated reports of firemen refusing to protect houses on the path of a raging fire unless their owners first paid up in varying sums. Prepare for a more frequent repetition of this scenario for, along with firemen, police and soldiers will probably indulge in similar blackmail, thanks to the draft's provisions encouraging them to unionize.

The third revolution predicted under the draft will be the more frequent unleashing of people power. The draft's apparent objective is laudable. It is to provide for numerous other channels for people power to express and assert itself, as a reward for its feat of overthrowing Marcos. But the consequence will probably be to create confusion where there had been order, and install anarchy where there had been democracy. For, in reality, democracy is already people power. As all the Constitutions we have had state: "The Philippines is a democratic and republic State. Sovereignty resides in the people and government authority emanates from them." (Article II, Sec. 1 in the 1935 and 1974 Constitutions and the present draft).

There is, of course, a point where the amount of popular intervention in public affairs is more or less ideal. A little more popular intervention or a little less of it will probably do no harm. But where such intervention is practically so universal that it is nearly unregulated, democracy might disappear, a sacrifice before the altar of the dictatorship of the proletariat. The draft Constitution practically destroys the established channels of popular expression and substitutes numerous channels and cross-channels which in time might fail to contain the flow of people power resulting in a dangerous flood.

People power is invited to assert itself in at least seven of the 18 articles of the constitutional draft. In the Bill of Rights itself, Section 8 invites the people employed in both the public and private sectors to unionize. "The right of the people, including those employed in the public and private sectors, to form unions shall not be abridged." These people in the public sector heretofore prohibited to form unions: firemen, policemen, soldiers, civil servants.

What if an invasion or war is imminent and the soldiers strike for higher pay? What if there is an election coming and civil servants strike if their demand for salary increases is turned down? What if the electorate strikes on the eve of elections because the COMELEC has made an unpopular ruling implementing the constitutional provisions abolishing the representation of political parties in the committees or bodies assisting in the electoral process?

The mandate to allow civil and military servants to unionize and enforce their rights is reinforced in Article IX-B, Sec. 2(5) which states, "The right of self-organization shall not be denied to government employees."

Not content with all this, the constitutional draft orders the Congress to abdicate some of its legislative powers to people power. "The Congress shall, as early as possible," Article VI, Sec. 32 directs, "provide for a system of initiative and referendum . . . whereby the people can directly propose and enact laws or approve or reject any act or law or part thereof passed by the Congress or local legislative bodies. . . ." People power can also modify or veto the acts of Congress.

It appears that this startling innovation stems from the fact that law-making is entrusted to officials elected by the people and, therefore, the people can share the law-making power at any time. This same people power is given corresponding intervention in local government affairs (Art. X, Sec. 5). Even grassroots organizations are constitutionally endowed with power to participate at every level of the agrarian reform program. "The state," the draft constitution provides, "shall recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers' organizations, to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the (agrarian reform) program." Art. XIII, Sec. 5)

As a sort of summary or reminder, in case the other provisions are overlooked, the draft still provides, "The right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political and economic decision-making, shall not be abridged. . . ." (Art. XIII, Sec. 16)

At par in importance with the provision of the Constitution in Article II, Sec. 1, already cited, being the first of the declared principles, is the power given to the people to directly propose amendments to the Constitution, subject, like all amendments proposed from other sources, to their acceptance by the people in a plebiscite.

In providing for direct constitutional amendment proposals by the people, the ConCom, however revealed some qualms. For it added the proviso: "No amendments under this section shall be authorized within five years following the ratification of this Constitution nor oftener than once every five years thereafter." (Art. XVII, Sec. 2)

It is on the basis of the extensive recognition of people power that advocates of ratification, principally ConCom chairman, ex-Justice Cecilia Munoz Palma, have called the document pro-people. It is, indeed, so pro-people that it is certain to instigate no less than three tumultuous revolutions in the coming years — revolution through universal demands for higher pay and improved perquisites, revolution for autonomous states and their consequences, and revolution in the form of increasingly-massive people power intervening in every government function and industrial problem. The ConCom may either have set the demise of people power or its conversion to a Frankenstein through good intentions.

ENRILE ASSOCIATE RAISES 'RIGHTWING' ANTICOMMUNIST ARMY

Manila MR. & MS. (Special Edition) in English 16-22 Jan 87 pp 8, 9

[Article by Bernardo V. Lopez: "A Pro-Enrile Private Army (Which Johnny Never Heard of)"]

[Text:]

HE calls Juan Ponce Enrile not "Johnny" but "Juaning" or "Primo". He claims to be a Cagayano who is a close ally of Enrile. During the tense hours of the EDSA uprising, he claims he was at Enrile's side in Enrile's Camp Aguinaldo office when Gen. Fabian Ver threatened to "pulverize" the building. So loyal is he to Enrile and Enrile's cause (or so he says) that he has organized an army to fight Communists.

Atty. Alberto Maguigad, known as "Maggi" to his friends, is the national commander of the Counter Insurgency Command (CIC). Maggi describes the CIC as a grassroots, military-backed civilian force, the opposite of what was seen at the EDSA Revolution (which he calls an "urban-based civilian-backed military force"). Maggi envisions the "next" revolution to be right-wing, peasant-based, military-

backed and aimed at the Communists. CIC draws its men mainly from New People's Army victims and accepts only unmarried men. "The idea really came from the people," Maggi quips.

The CIC can be traced to an organization called the Aggregation of People's Party, Inc. (APPI), an umbrella of supposedly grassroots-based peoples' parties all over the country. Maggi says the APPI and CIC are one and the same: the CIC is simply the armed component of APPI. APPI has a membership of 210,000 nationwide, of which CIC embraces 70% or 147,000. 50 per cent or 75,000 of the CIC is armed. This incredible figure dwarfs that of the NPA whose fully-armed regulars number to about 25,000. In Cagayan Valley alone, CIC boasts of 2,900 members. Maggi says the dramatic growth of CIC, established

March-April, 1986 after the EDSA Revolution, is based on people who were victims of the NPA. Maggi claims that local leaders with strong mass-based support were the key to the sudden growth of CIC. There is one Dr. Calarde of Gingoog City, whose son was an alleged victim of the NPA. As president of the Anti-Communist Movement of Mindanao, he brought thousands to the CIC. There is one Bobby Bangkong, a reported Muslim-turned-Christian Dimaporo loyalist who brought into the CIC thousands of Muslims from Lanao, Davao, Cotabato, and Basilan. Maggi says the CIC has won victories in encounters with Muslim lost commands (i.e. not loyal to the MNLF/MILF). They are against not Muslim separatists *per se* but "those who commit hostilities against the civilians".

Maggi claims that there are two American Green Beret

Vietnam-vet experts helping to train CIC in the use of arms and in guerrilla warfare (not related to two Green Berets deported recently). Maggi refused to disclose if they are CIA-backed, U.S.-bases-related, simply mercenary volunteers, or all of the above. Jungle survival training comes from an indigenous source — the Itnegs of Claveria, Cagayan Valley. Maggi says he has a small red "seed" (amulet?) given by his grandfather Don Placido (whom he says was one of the biggest landowners of Cagayan Valley during the Spanish period). When one enters the territory of the warlike Itnegs without the "seed", one is beheaded. With the seed, one is a god, adds Maggi.

CIC is a nationwide undertaking with Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao chapters. There is a Central Committee of four — Maggi and three from the chapters. They meet regularly to update each other and assess regional situations. CIC is complete with army uniforms and an insignia (see picture). There are provincial and sector commanders. There are "CIC areas" now in Mindanao which the NPA cannot infiltrate, says Maggi. There are three major secret training camps for the three chapters with undisclosed locations, not including many minor camps. The six-week intensive training is heavily oriented in data on the NPA and how to deal with them.

Maggi says he has raised P300,000 in Cagayan de

Oro City alone (undisclosed sources) for the camps and has doled out P60,000 of his own money. This figure seems understated considering that he says the CIC has trained tens of thousands since March, 1986. The two- to three-hectare Mindanao camp near Cagayan de Oro has trained two to three thousand civilians per province, a fantastic figure. There is a second camp in Bukidnon. Maggi argues that the reason the program has spent so little is because it is self-reliant. The camps raise their own pigs and chickens, some of which are given to NPA surrenderees. (CIC claims it has rehabilitated more than 600 NPA surrenderees nationwide.) Trainees also bring their own food to the camps. The first batch of graduates train the next batch. Training is ongoing presently and there are occasional "operations". In fact, CIC activities have increased since the ceasefire, launching a propaganda war on NPAs coming down from the hills.

Where does the CIC get its arms? It employs an "agaw armas" program against the NPA. Maggi discloses an operation in Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental, wherein they got 44 armalites in two weeks from the NPAs. Maggi, again, refuses to disclose the main source of arms. There are very few possible sources — the CIA, the U.S. bases, the NAFF, or all of the above. Are the Green Beret consultants the possible connection?

If Rodolfo Salas was codenamed Kumander Bilog, Maggi is codenamed Commander Jake Madigan (derived from the Green Beret leader of the original Charlie Company involved in the infamous Mai Lai Village massacre in Vietnam). If the NPA has its "sparrow unit", the CIC's death squad is known as "Woodpecker". Maggi also claims a CIC intelligence network that keeps a close surveillance of NPA activities. If given a ship, Maggi boasts that he can bring 100,000 CIC militiamen to Manila in case of an emergency.

Indeed, Maggi says the CIC was put on red alert to back up a possible coup by Enrile when Metro Manila buzzed with coup rumors last November.

Maggi has the dubious distinction of having lost to Enrile in the Cagayan Valley in the 1984 parliamentary polls. "How can I accept defeat when I know I was blatantly cheated?" Maggi told *Who Magazine*. In Tuguegarao, where Maggi says he has 1,000 relatives, he only got 21 votes. "And to top it all," he complained, "I got zero in the precinct where I voted."

Despite that loss, Maggi's loyalty to Enrile is total.

Maggi hopes that the CIC shall "pave the way" for Enrile — though he says this would be "malagim" (atrocious), because it would involve force and people may have to die in the process. As national commander of the CIC, Maggi says he does

not work for anybody, although he speaks of (but does not identify) sources of arms and funds. He states that the CIC has been kept secret from Enrile, although Maggi thinks Enrile may be aware of it from military intelligence reports. An *Inquirer* report accused the CIC as out to liquidate Presidential Adviser Nene Pimentel's "left-leaning" OICs in Cagayan de Oro City. Maggi vehemently denies this. Before Enrile was ousted from the Cabinet in December, long-haired fatigue-clad armed "soldiers" claiming to be CIC elements were interviewed on Channel 2 during Enrile's anti-Communist rallies in Cebu City. They said they were awaiting orders to fight the NPAs. The newspapers have also written of a secret training camp on an island off Isabela. Nobody knows whether these trainees are AFP elements or civilians. Could they be members of the CIC? Based on leaked military documents, *Malaya* (Jan. 14) alleged that CIA-identified Gen. John Singlaub was "organizing a local anti-Communist group". Could this be the CIC?

Maggi labels the CIC as "Christianity in Action", which coincidentally has a famous acronym - CIA.

Maggi refuses to allow outsiders a glimpse of CIC training camps. The best proof he could offer during the interview at Daddy's Restaurant (a loyalist enclave near the Manila Hilton from which Felizardo Lota emerged before he was shot) was an expensively embroidered patch and a photograph of himself behind Enrile during the February Uprising.

Juan Ponce Enrile denies any knowledge of this army which is adamantly behind his cause. He also said he knows no one by the name of Alberto Maguigad and to his knowledge was not aware of a relative by that name. His closest aides say they never saw anyone claiming to be Maggi at Enrile's side during the February event. Neither have they ever met this man who claims he stood by Enrile's side during those tense moments in Camp Aguinaldo.

When last seen, Alberto Maguigad was on his way to Cagayan to campaign for a "Yes" vote to the new Charter.

/9274

CSO: 4200/317

EDITORIAL ASSAILS HANDLING OF COUP PLOTTERS

HK301010 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 30 Jan 87 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Are the Villains Now the Heroes?"]

[Text] It is ironic that the manner by which top defense and military officials handled the case of the Channel 7 mutineers, as well as the conduct of the mutineers itself, should now be the object of popular applause and congratulations.

There is nothing to praise in the acts of Col Oscar Canlas and his group, their avowed "democratic cause" notwithstanding.

It is also the height of irony that some government officials should even laud the mutineers "for not retaliating" during that aborted teargas assault on them by government forces shortly before midnight of Wednesday.

It is time the lines about these sickening coup plots are drawn, and drawn clearly.

The fact remains that the mutineers are guilty of acts of rebellion, and no amount of efforts to disengage themselves from the Marcos loyalist groups, or from the series of coordinated strikes on military installations at dawn of Tuesday, can erase that fact.

What the military cannot deny is that the Channel 7 takeover occurred simultaneously with coordinated strikes at Villamor Air Base and Sangley Air Station, the raid on the government television station Channel 4, and the unauthorized movements of troops from various camps to areas where action was expected to take place.

All these could not have happened at the same time with clockwork precision, unless there was a mastermind controlling the movements of the various forces involved. And it is obvious that all these were meant to carry out just one objective: rebellion.

The plotters knew about an indignation march by 20,000 demonstrators at Mendiola bridge fronting Malacanang that Monday afternoon, and they knew about

it because the demonstrators' leaders themselves had announced it 2 days earlier.

The rebellion was so timed for dawn of Tuesday, in anticipation of the expected Mendiola violence, when the hands of the government forces loyal to the Aquino administration would be too full trying to cope with the trouble.

But luck intervened, and the administration was able to defuse what would have been a bloody confrontation at Mendiola. By that time the rebellion was too far gone and there was no time to recall the disparate forces already let loose.

In the face of all these, it is a wonder that these men, who would only use the lame excuse of "seeking reforms in the NAFF [New Armed Forces of the Philippines]" for their illegal and obstructive acts, have been treated so kindly and given all the time in the world to play out their little drama, when other Filipinos whose patriotic claims do not necessarily jibe with those of the anticommunist hysteria of some government leaders are so easily considered enemies of the state and gunned down.

The defense and military officials who negotiated with the Canlas group are themselves guilty of insubordination of the highest order, for having gone against a clearly stated policy of the commander-in-chief to "let the full force of the law" fall on the coup plotters, and to arrest and court martial all those involved in this latest military adventure.

It will be recalled that a similar controversy over the handling of the 6 July Manila Hotel coup plotters arose when then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and General Ramos insisted on giving the military men involved the ridiculous punishment consisting of "30 push-ups."

Are we to believe now that any Filipino with a self-righteous "anticommunist, save-democracy" cause will be allowed to wreak havoc on our people, and subject them to endless anguish and uncertainty?

Clearly, the "New" Armed Forces of the Philippines has never quite succeeded in getting its act together, and until and unless it is able to do so, none of its smug "saviors of democracy" have any right to blackmail the civilian government into submission to its demands and dictations on how this country should be run.

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CSO: 4200/312

YEAREND SUMMARY SHEDS LIGHT ON TARHATA, LAUREL STATUS

Kidnapings, Tarhata Interventions

Manila MR. & MS. (Special Edition) in English 19 Dec 86-1 Jan 87 pp 18, 19, 23, 26

[Excerpts]

KIDNAPED. Fr. Michel Mare Joseph Gigord, a French missionary who was to be the first in a queue of clergy kidnapings in the strife-torn province of Lanao beginning June. Loyalist warlord Ali Dimaporo was rumored to be connected to the priest's disappearance, and when political rival Princess Tarhata showed up in Manila with the good father in tow,

tongues wagged.

KIDNAPED. Brian Lawrence, American evangelist and devout Christian; while on a mission in Marawi with wife Carol Ann to convert the Muslims; by Muslims. Saving grace waddled forth in the ample form of Princess Tarhata, who delivered a newly-bearded and shrill-toned Lawrence into the chaste

embrace of spouse.

KIDNAPED. Swiss national Hans Kunzli; while on a glorious holiday in the Mindanao tropics with Filipino girlfriend; for a record span of approximately three months. Princess Tarhata to the rescue, as usual, and a shaken but alive Kunzli, hinting vaguely at great misdeeds by his captors, gamely thanked Cory for her concern.

President: Travels

TO JAKARTA AND SINGAPORE. Corazon Aquino, with her economic ministers, made a five-day swing of the two countries hoping to attract investors to her debt-ridden country. The trip, she said, established close cooperation between her government and the governments of the two nations. Upon her return, she was met by foreign minister Doy Laurel.

TO THE UNITED STATES. Corazon Aquino, with her economic minister, spent nine days in the United States hoping to attract investors to her debt-ridden country. The Americans rewarded her with accolades and promises of aid. The trip, she said, established "greater understanding" between the two governments. Foreign minister Doy

Laurel was on hand to greet her upon her return.

TO JAPAN. Corazon Aquino, with her economic ministers, made a four-day state visit to Japan hoping to attract more investors to her debt-ridden country. The Japanese, she said, will be dependable allies and friends. Foreign minister Doy Laurel was on hand to greet her upon her return.

PHILIPPINES

NO INJURIES REPORTED IN JESUIT UNIVERSITY BOMBING

HK240626 Hong Kong AFP in English 0624 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Text] Cagayan, Philippines, 24 Jan (AFP)--Three bombs exploded on the campus of a Jesuit-run university in this southern Philippine city late Friday, a school official said Saturday.

The bombs, which were hurled rather than planted, caused little damage and no injuries were reported.

Father Ernesto Javier, president of Xavier University, said the first bomb exploded shortly before midnight local time (1600 GMT Friday) on the driveway of Loyola House, where several priests live.

Another bomb exploded about 20 seconds later outside the rooms of two priests at Loyola House, shattering window panes, he said.

The third bomb exploded beside the Center for Industrial Technology building some 100 meters (yards) from the priests' residence, he added.

"Based on the trajectory of the bombs, the throwers must have been professional," a Jesuit priest said.

Fragments of coconut husk soaked in diesel fuel, short pieces of detonating cord and bits of plastic canisters were recovered from the sites. School guards said the fragments indicated that the explosives were homemade bombs.

Police refused to release details of the bombings pending a probe and laboratory analysis of the fragments.

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CSO: 4200/312

NPA LEVIES TAX ON EASTERN SAMAR GOLD PANNERS

HK041339 Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 4 Feb 87 pp 1, 6

[Article by Lulu Principe]

[Text] Over P500,000 in "taxes" is being collected monthly by the New People's Army (NPA) from small gold panners in Eastern Samar, the Bureau of Mines disclosed yesterday.

The illegal exaction of fees, the report said, is openly carried out at the gold planning site, a 12-kilometer stretch along Kigad river, a tributary of Llorente river in that province.

The NPA has been collecting fees in defiance of an existing agreement between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF), umbrella organization of all major communist groups, that such an activity would be stopped for the duration of the ceasefire agreement.

The case of Eastern Samar was the latest to be reported after Agriculture Minister Ramon Mitra, Jr. complained about the NPA's "taxation."

The other reports were made by groups of businessmen from remote provinces which were brought to the attention of the National Ceasefire Committee headed by Bishop Antonio Fortich.

Mitra, former government peace negotiator, had earlier complained that the NPA in Kalinga-Apayao is demanding from him P130,000 as "tax" for his ranch in Kalinga-Apayao.

Mines Director Benjamin Gonzales told Natural Resources Minister Carlos Dominguez that the NPA is coercing about 4,000 gold panners to "contribute" 5 to 15 percent of their gold produce of 1 kilogram a day to the NPA's coffer.

The total gold production, Gonzales said, is valued at P200,000 daily. The gold is sold to Chinese traders in Llorente at P200 per gram.

He said the NPA put up a checkpoint in the site to ensure that all gold panners pay their "dues" to the NPA's local force.

Reacting to the report, Dominguez ordered the mines bureau to seek the assistance of the military or immediate action.

However, Dominguez said proper protection and assistance should first be provided the gold panners, particularly in their bid to safely recover gold.

The mines bureau said it dispatched a special group from the bureau's regional office in Cebu to assist panners in constructing at least two standard-size sluice boxes to be taken to the area for demonstration.

At the same time, the bureau's mine safety engineers will teach the panners on the safe use of mercury and other toxic chemicals in their search for gold.

The operation in Eastern Samar is the latest gold panning reported to the MNR [Ministry of Natural Resources]. The four other sites which are considered major producers of gold are Compostela, Boringot, Diwalwal, and Nabostenan, all in Davao.

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CSO: 4200/312

MINISTER TAKES ACTION AGAINST NPA TAXATION

HK031047 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Natural Resources Minister Carlos Dominguez took action on the report that the New People's Army was collecting taxes from gold panners in Eastern Samar. This was learned from a report filed by Lulu Principle.

[Begin recording] In a directive issued by the minister, Dominguez ordered the Miners' Bureau to coordinate immediately with the military in order to study the complaints and undertake appropriate measures to protect the gold panners. Based on the report received by Dominguez, the NPA in Eastern Samar were collecting taxes from some 4,000 gold panners. The tax was equivalent to 5 to 15 percent of their entire gold production which reaches 1 kilogram per day.

According to Mines Bureau Director Benjamin Gonzales, the illegal taxes collected by the NPA could total 20,000 pesos each day, a total of 200,000 pesos worth of gold lost by the people there. Gonzales added that the NPA operated from a checkpoint they set up there. The gold output is sold by the gold panners to Chinese traders in the San Lorenzo town at 200 pesos per gram.

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CSO: 4211/24

MNLF SPOKESMAN DISCUSSES SUPPORT FOR AQUINO

HK271239 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 27 Jan 87 p 20

[Text] Zamboanga City--The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) yesterday said it will send to Manila as many "troops" as will be needed to protect President Corazon C. Aquino and ensure the stability of her government.

In an interview here, MNLF spokesman Ustadz Zain Jali said, "The enemies of the president are our enemies. her friends are our friends."

Jali said the MNLF supported the president in her peace efforts and will support her in times of war or crisis.

The MNLF has over 30,000 men armed with high-powered guns under foreign trained commanders and Jali said, "These men will constitute a big force to ensure the safety of the President."

Jali, a member of the panel who met with government negotiators led by National Affairs Minister Aquilino Pimentel in Jeddah early this month, said, "We never questioned the sincerity of the president in working for peace and resolving the Mindanao problem so we will always support her."

The MNLF spokesman said the MNLF will not disrupt the plebiscite but will see to it that it will be peaceful and orderly.

"Officially, the MNLF will remain neutral on the issue of the charter ratification, but the MNLF will not prevent anybody, Muslims or Christians, from exercising their rights in the plebiscite," Jali said.

However, he said the "people should not vote the way the enemies of President Aquino are asking them to."

Short of saying that the people would approve the charter, Jali said a "no" vote is a vote against the president, and the MNLF is behind the president.

Jali said the MNLF cannot officially endorse the charter because its provision on autonomy, particularly the provision that uses the term "Muslim Mindanao" will "tie our hands during the negotiations."

He said the word "Muslim" cannot be used to describe a region, since the word refers to a religion.

The MNLF proposes the creation of an autonomous region for the people of Mindanao and not an autonomous region for a religious group, he said. "How can Muslims and Christians co-exist peacefully if the charter mentions the term 'Muslim'?"

He said while it is true that the MNLF has a strong Bangsa Moro army, "that army is there to preserve peace that we will eventually have in Mindanao."

Reacting to reports that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) under Salamat Hashim has called on Nur Misuari to cut his talks with the Aquino government, Jali said the MNLF-government talks will continue, and the difference between the MNLF and the MILF is an "internal problem."

Quoting an editorial of the SAUDI GAZZETTE dated 18 January, Jali said the Saudi Arabian newspaper called on the MILF to come to terms with the MNLF. "The MILF must join hands with the MNLF in the furtherance of the cause."

Jali said Misuari has already invited Hashim to work together "even before the 5 September meeting between Misuari and President Aquino in Jolo, Sulu, yet Hashim refused to meet Misuari."

Dismissing fears that the MNLF will impose the Muslim religion on other sectors of Mindanao should autonomy be granted to the region, Jali said, it is against the Muslim religion to force anybody to follow the way of Islam.

He said these issues are not fully understood by most of the Muslims and Christians in Mindanao.

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CSO: 4200/312

MUSLIM BLAMES THIRD PARTY FOR MINDANAO VIOLENCE

HK221037 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0600 GMT 22 Jan 87

[Text] The wave of violence in Mindanao originated from a third group and not from the MNLF nor the MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front]. The MNLF civilian peace negotiator Zain Jali said the recent fighting in the region was carried out by persons who want to destroy the peace talks. Here is the report of Jojo Ismael.

[Begin recording] According to [word indistinct] Jali's statement, the reported fighting between the MNLF and the MILF in Mindanao originated from a group wants to destroy the Mindanao peace talks. This group is composed of politicians who want to embarrass the Aquino government. Jali just arrived from the recent talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He said even though there are differences among the leaders of the MNLF and MILF, they will not resort to killing and bloody fighting.

Meanwhile, (Hadji Morab), the deputy chairman of the MILF also said that the reported attacks in Lanao are not the doing of the MILF. He, however, admitted that the Cotabato incidents were part of the MILF operations to let the government know it wants to be included in the present peace talks. It was also known from an MNLF panelist that the scheduled talks between the government and the MNLF on 8 February is pushing through. [end recording]

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CSO: -211/24

PANAY CPP SECRETARY-MARCOS KIN ON PEACE TALKS. AQUINO

Manila MR. & MS. (Special Edition) in English 16-22 Jan 87 pp 6, 7

[Interview by Francoise Joaquin with Concha Araneta, National Democratic Front representative to Panay Ceasefire Committee: "The Tale of a Pregnant Amazon Related to Greggory Araneta"]

[Text]

In a billowy pale yellow smock with an embroidered white bib, the slightly built woman in her mid-30s looks anything but revolutionary. Cropped wavy hair frames a gentle face with large plastic-rimmed glasses; her tones are soft, the cadence of her speech, measured and deliberate.

Meet Concha Araneta, the National Democratic Front (NDF) representative to the local ceasefire committee in Panay: she is idealistic, cause-oriented — and almost nine months pregnant (a few weeks after the interview, Concha would give birth to Erica Paz, a healthy newcomer to the ceasefire).

A distant cousin of Marcosian in-law Greggory Araneta, Ka Marta, as the active Party leader is known in Panay's District 3, has come out of the underground closet and surfaced along

with a by-now familiar host of so-called Cocktail Commies in what has proven to be an immensely successful public image campaign by the Left since the signing of the ceasefire agreement last November.

And as has been typical of the impact that such charmers as Ocampo et al have produced, Concha Araneta is nearly irresistible. Her life story is naturally of the stuff of which rebel tales and progressive campfire songs are woven. A distant cousin of Greggory Araneta, Concha was raised the fifth of ten children in the fashion of, if not the rich and famous, the more or less well-to-do of the Ilonggo middle class.

Educated at Assumption Iloilo from kindergarten to high school, the convent-bred young lady moved on to U.P. Visayas and later U.P. Diliman, where she double-majored in political science

and mass communications. In the course of her studies, she joined the U.P. Nationalist Corps; and in 1970, while still a junior, Concha Araneta pledged her life to the movement and surreptitiously slipped into an alias, a new identity and purpose, and a niche in the Philippine underground.

Over the next decade, she surfaced at least twice — both times against her will. In 1972, a few days before martial law was declared, she was arrested, only to be bailed out. Most of the following years were spent in organizational and propaganda work in the Panay countryside, until 1979, when she was detained in Negros for some 15 months. In September, 1980, she and seven co-detainees bore a hole through the rooftop of their quarters and escaped. It was, jokes Concha, "a very nice birthday gift for the deposed President Marcos".

In the years afterward, she worked her way through the ranks of the rebel hierarchy, concentrating on administrative work. By 1985, the deceptively demure woman bore the title of Party secretary within District 3. A year later, under a new government, she was chosen to represent the NDF in the region in preliminary test-the-water talks with the President herself.

In her capacity as an NDF representative, much of Araneta's effectivity relies on the same strengths that guarantee the Cory Aquino seal of popularity. She speaks simply, and yet with conviction; seemingly out-machos no one, but quietly gets her way. Her sincerity is that of a parent who prioritizes her child's future over all else: this will be her

fifth child, and she has not seen the eldest, who is now 15, since he was eight.

So it is partly a case of "The Appeal of the Mother Strikes Again". On the other side, Concha is as dedicated a cadre as they come, often given to a rather strict interpretation of issues and events. The combination of roles comes to a head whenever she opens her mouth to speak: she alternates between heartwarming integrity and leftist rhetoric, a lively play of emotion and analysis.

In an interview at the year's end, she summed up NDF opinion in Panay about the prospects of the substantive talks on the ceasefire.

On the progress of negotiations. This has been the first peaceful Christmas in a long time. It could mean a lasting solution to the prob-

lems of the Filipino people if we could reach amenable terms with the government. The mere act of our accepting the ceasefire initiative and of our seriously undertaking this agreement, shows that we have a basis for hoping that agreeable solutions could be arrived at, although for my part, I cannot guarantee that because two forces have to arrive at reasonable political agreements. It very much depends on these two contending forces.

The downfall of Marcos and the victory of Cory is a big victory for the Filipino people and the revolutionary forces believe we have a big share in that victory. However, the downfall of a dictator is not the one and only solution. As we have always stated, the root causes

of the insurgency are U.S. domination of the Philippine economy, its politics and its military affairs: rampant monopoly of land ownership; and, of course, bureaucratic capitalism.

So unless these problems are approached objectively and uprooted, and lasting solutions are agreed upon, we think that the insurgency problem could go on and could even worsen.

On amnesty. At first, in our talks with Cory, she offered amnesty, going back to the fold of the law. So we made it clear to her that that was not at all in our agenda. Laying down of arms or amnesty would not be acceptable for us. So she countered with a ceasefire proposal, and that was when we accepted the proposal, meaning that we were open to a ceasefire, although we made it clear that for us, ceasefire is a very tactical and temporary agreement and we were more interested in talking over the root causes of the insurgency problem.

Well she responded that she would not commit yet to such talk, because for her, it would be unreasonable to talk while fighting was going on, and I think that's quite reasonable...

(But amnesty?) No way.

On the government agenda. Our stand is that we won't be tied down by the Constitution. I mean, personally, for me, we are meeting on an equal level, so it isn't proper that the government would tie us down. As for the Constitution's section on land reform, it's rather vague, and we want clearer, more pragmatic solutions to the land problem.

I don't think the NDF's entering into the bounds of the Constitution would be acceptable to us, although that single issue would not just be the cause for the breakdown of the ceasefire.

On the image of the Left. As I see it, almost daily since Dec. 10, we could read in the papers about ceasefire violations by the NPA, like the protest in Samal, the Aklan incident: Zamboanga; Albay. Personally, I think it's a pattern being set up to put the NDF in a bad light. The military does not bother to report these supposed violations to the NCC (National Ceasefire Committee) or even to the local ceasefire committees before going to the press. So when denials are made, they aren't headlined, which is quite unfair.

(Like) the Aklan attack, definitely it was not an NPA raid. The regional ceasefire committee issued an official statement saying there was no confirmation whatsoever that the alleged attackers were NPAs. We also conferred with the regional command of the NPA Panay and they reported that all of their units were accounted for and there was no such attack by any of its elements.

On Cory's importance in the talks. Ms. Aquino's a very big part in the success or failure of the ceasefire, but I think it would also depend on the government's outlook and their political agenda, how they view the NDF side, how they arrive at concessions or compromises. Still, I think the President has a big role in its success....

(Do we trust her?) Of course. That is, we trust her in the context of what we talked about.

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CSO: 4200/317

BANGSA MORO-ISLAMIC PARTY HEAD ON MINDANAO ISSUES

Manila MR. & MS. (Special Edition) in English 28 Nov-4 Dec 86 pp 16, 17

[Interview by Joe Galvez with Datu Firdausi I. Y. Abbas, Bangsa Moro Islamic Party: "Making It Through the Tripoli Agreement"]

[Text]

EDITOR'S NOTE: In an interview published in our October 24-30 issue, Joe Galvez discussed the Muslim problem with MNLF leader Nur Misuari. This time around, he interviews Datu Firdausi I.Y. Abbas of the Bangsa Moro. As formal negotiations between the MNLF and the government will soon be underway, Abbas' views should be significant.

JOE GALVEZ: On December 6, 1985, the Bangsa Moro Islamic Organization composed of 44 Moro national groups, held a conference. What happened then?

FIRDAUSI I.Y. ABBAS: I was then secretary-general and I invited Butz Aquino as special guest. In his speech before the assembly, he said: "The Filipino people recognize the parameters established in the Tripoli

Agreement" as basis for honest to goodness negotiations. However, recently the newspapers published another of his statements to the effect that the Tripoli Agreement has been abandoned. Now this is inconsistent with his commitment last December. Furthermore, to abandon the Tripoli Agreement is playing up to the schemes of Nurullah Misuari. Nur Misuari is for secession. The Tripoli Agreement which was entered into between the MNLF and the old Philippine government in 1976 was under the auspices of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). The OIC is composed of all the Muslim states in the world. Because of the Tripoli Agreement, no Muslim state has recognized the independent Bangsa Moro Republic which Misuari set up. And because of the

Tripoli Agreement, no Muslim state will ever support secession; they are bound only to support autonomy. If you abolish and abandon the Tripoli Agreement, then you are allowing the Muslim states to break their commitment to support only autonomy. They will now be able to support secession. So you see, it would be opening a Pandora's Box if you abandon the Tripoli Agreement.

JG: Misuari said that if there should be an agreement between the MNLF and the Philippine government, it should start with the Tripoli Agreement. Then it is contradictory to what Butz said?

FA: Yes, that is correct. Agapito Aquino said that the Tripoli Agreement has been abandoned. That is dangerous for the Philippine government to do. Because, then it would violate its

commitment to the Organization of Islamic Conference and free the OIC member states from their commitment to autonomy to support secession.

JG: So are you in favor of Misuari's stand that the agreement should start with the Tripoli Agreement?

FA: Our position is that the Tripoli Agreement must be fully implemented. The autonomy which should be established in southern Philippines must be that as provided in the Tripoli Agreement. This is the only alternative to secession.

JG: There were also problems in the Tripoli Agreement. If it should be the basis for negotiations, would there be some changes?

FA: The Tripoli Agreement has two kinds of provisions. The self-executory or the final provisions, and the provisions which are still to be executed by a committee composed by members and representatives of the MNLF and representatives of the Philippine government. The details of the provisions still to be executed have to be threshed out by this committee. The final provisions on one area of autonomy in the 13 provinces, they're already there. There should be no more changes as far as these provisions are concerned.

President Aquino says that she is sincere and wants the Muslims to realize their political aspirations. This is autonomy within the context of the Tripoli Agreement — that is the essential element in implementing it. There is one ticklish provision however, the question on security forces. Many believe that the security forces in the regions which will be composed mostly of MNLF Mujahedins will be separated from those of the Republic of the Philippines. That is not correct. The MNLF will be made an integral part of the AFP. It will be an enlarged 'provincial guards' concept.

JG: You said that there are 50,000 Mujahedins. Don't you think that 50,000 is too much for provincial guards alone?

FA: No, no. The proposed security forces in the regions would be limited to only 15,000. And they will have to undergo a screening process.

JG: Would they be another CHDF?

FA: No. The CHDF are paramilitary forces. Now the security force will be a military one. It will be a part of the AFP. The members will be highly trained and they will be the ones who will take care of peace and order in the regions.

JG: What are your plans now, together with other factions regarding the possibility of having a dialogue with the President? It seems that you have been advised to wait until the MNLF problem is settled?

FA: Butz Aquino says that he is dealing with Misuari because Misuari has the biggest following. That is not correct. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front has the biggest following with 17,000 regulars. Misuari has at most — 5,000. Before the meeting with President Aquino, he had less. The second biggest are the MNLF Reformists, who have 10,000 regulars. At the MILF conference in Maguindanao recently, there was an attendance of more than 35,000 Mujahedins. They belong to the armed forces of the MILF. They dwarf the Maimbung conference of Misuari. Now, it is said that if the talks with Misuari fail, President Aquino would talk to the other factions! Now it would be dishonorable for the MNLF Reformists or the MILF to agree to talk to President Aquino when they had been originally excluded and will now just be invited because the talks with Misuari failed.

JG: Those are contradictions of Butz Aquino's moves. He has said there are no plans

of 'excluding' anybody from the peace process, that steps should be taken 'one by one' because they constitute a broader problem.

FA: That just proves his (Butz's) lack of grasp of the problem. The problem in the South is not just a military one. It is at the same time economic, political, social and even religious. The problem does not only involve the MILF and MNLF forces, it involves all the sectors of the Bangsa Moro. So even if we solve the military aspect, if there are no remedies to the other puzzles of the problem, then the problem might not be solved. Even the military problem will resume and resurge. So the approach must be total. And it must be simultaneous. To deal with one faction after the other is definitely dangerous and erroneous.

JG: What is the role now of the Bangsa Moro Islamic Party with regards to the autonomy move and what are your plans in order to have a peaceful solution?

FA: The viable solution to the problems in the South is the full implementation of the Tripoli Agreement. With the participation of all the revolutionary forces. The MILK, the reformists, the secessionists, the traditional religious and political leaders. All Muslims and Christians--those who have historical presence in the area of autonomy. The Tripoli Agreement should be implemented before the Constitution is submitted for ratification, because the provisions of autonomy in the proposed Constitution violates the Tripoli Agreement! The Tripoli Agreement should be appended to the proposed Constitution or be incorporated into the proposed Constitution. If this Constitution will be ratified, the many Moro groups who are for autonomy within the context of the Tripoli Agreement might now opt for secession.

JG: How would you regard Misuari now as a leader? Do you think there is still a chance of you joining hands as Muslims?

FA: There is always a probability to stand united. We give credit to Misuari, at least when he was Chairman of the MNLF. The MNLF was able to get the single most important political document in more than 400 years of struggle--the Tripoli Agreement. That is why the TA belongs to the Bangsa Moro. And not even Misuari can unilaterally abandon it. Misuari's secessionist move is what differentiates his group from the others and from the BMIP. The MILF, the MNLF reformists and the BMIP are for autonomy within the context of the Tripoli Agreement. Previously, all these groups were together. In 1977, Salamat got out of the Central Committee because he accused Misuari of deviating from the Islamic struggle, of coalescing with the Communists, which in Islam is prohibited. I was originally with the Central Committee of the MNLF Reformists. A few months back I resigned because I had a different position. To the MNLF Reformists, negotiations with the Philippine government is a purely MNLF matter, involving only the revolutionary groups. I disagree. The position of the BMIP is that the problem in the South involves all sectors of the Bangsa Moro people. It cannot be a purely MNLF and MILF affair.

JG: Are you against the Constitution regarding the autonomy provisions?

FA: Definitely. The proposed regional autonomy in the South for the Muslims is dependent upon the organic act that will be enacted by Congress of the

Philippines. The 200-member Congress will be predominantly Christian. So how can we expect this predominantly Christian group to articulate the sentiments of the Bangsa Moro.

JG: Is there a rift between you and your brother Macapanton Abbas, Jr?

FA: I have always had the highest esteem and respect for my brother. Our differences are mainly on matters of principle. You see the MNLF Reformists' position is that the negotiations must be between the Philippine government and the revolutionary forces--MNLF and MILF, that negotiations be purely an MNLF affair. I disagree. And this is the position of the Bangsa Moro Islamic Party. Negotiations must be between the Philippine government and all sectors of the Bangsa Moro in order to have a total approach to the problem, a solution that will be acceptable to all sectors of the Bangsa Moro society. I never claim that I am important. I never claim that I have a following. In the Bangsa Moro Islamic Party, personalities are not important. What is important here is the cause of the BMIP. In the BMIP, there are no leaders and followers. The officers are all spokesmen of the decisions of the body on the party's causes. I am a Datu. Not only in Marawi, Dayawan, Marantao, Maging, Sagyaran, Gimba and Bayang in Lanao del Sur and Buayan (South Cotabato). And in the context of the traditional Moro community, I will always have a following. But who is Butz Aquino to say who is significant or insignificant and who is not in Mindanao? In the first place, who does he think is significant or insignificant to us? As a matter of fact, Butz Aquino is insignificant to the people in Mindanao. You see, in the socio-political structure of the Moro communities, significance is in reference firstly to classes of people. Then second, to individuals. In the Moro community the Sultans and the Datus thru whom present Moro communities trace their glorious past and who still exert tremendous influence are definitely significant. The religious leaders who influence the day to day endeavors of the faithful are very significant. In terms of individual significance, how can you discount the Dinaporoas, the Lucmans, the Dianalans, the Mandangans, etc. of Lanao? How can you discount the Sinsuats, the Ampatuans, the Candaos of Cotabato?

JG: Will everything then be based on the ratification of the new autonomy provision?

FA: If the Constitution is ratified, it means that they have disregarded the struggle of the Bangsa Moro. The point is, the autonomy provided for by the Constitution is not acceptable to the Bangsa Moro.

JG: If ever Nur Misuari agrees to autonomy, would that answer the Bangsa Moro's question?

FA: Nur Misuari is not the only key man to the solution of the Mindanao problem. Salamat is a key man. The Reformist leaders are key men. Traditional, political and religious leaders are also key men. As I said, the approach must be total. If Misuari accepts autonomy, within the context of the Tripoli Agreement, then there will be no quarrel between his group and ours. We will all be united. Misuari should not be afraid that we will contest his chairmanship of the MNLF. Nobody intends to do that. If there

will be any contest of leadership, it will be when election comes for the officers and leaders of the autonomous government.

JG: Do you believe that President Aquino is sincere in her ways of finding a peaceful solution to the Mindanao problem?

FA: We would say that she is not sincere because the approach adopted in solving the Moro problem is incorrect. It is ill-advised. Misuari has stated that the Christians in Mindanao have to accept Moro sovereignty or leave the area. He declared that Moros are not Filipinos. He has agitated the Christian populace. The previous antagonism between Christians and Muslims which was starting to fade has been rekindled. The Christians who were sympathetic and supportive of the aspiration of the Bangsa Moro for autonomy have become suspicious. Why, because Misuari sees independence as separate from the Republic--threatening the rights of the Christians in the area. But an autonomous government does not claim Basilan, Sulu, Mindanao and Palawan to belong to the Bangsa Moro. Proposed areas of autonomy, Christians and Muslims, all belong to one people--The Bangsa Moro, living in peace and harmony. Misuari had beclouded and confused the issues.

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DAVAO NORTE TRIBAL ANTICOMMUNIST CAMPAIGN PROMPTS CONCERN

Manila MR. & MS. (Special Edition) in English 12-18 Dec 86 p 10

[Article by Gingging Avellarosa]

[Text]

IN some reaches of the South, the killing lust goes by a name: the *Pangayao*. Last month, Crestita Imabas lost her husband Esteban to this tribal rite of revenge among the natives of sitio Mambago, Kapalong, Davao del Norte. He was among the latest victims of the *Pangayao*, another life lost in the crossfire.

Toward the end of November, the couple had gone to Mambago to harvest corn, ignoring a warning from the owner of these cornfields that they would have to finish their work in two days lest they tempt fate and the threat of the *Pangayao*. On Thursday, Nov. 20, they were husking corn when three shots rang out. Within seconds, Crestita was clasping her dying husband to her chest, as the lone assailant fled into the corn fields.

Today, the 40-year-old widow bitterly contemplates the fate of her three chil-

dren. Scattered throughout the sitio, there are more like herself, all victims of the blood lust that streaks the fields of Mambago a deep crimson.

The *Pangayao*, it is said, stemmed from a shoot-on-sight attempt to rid the area of NPA rebels. Allegedly leading the campaign is a certain Jose Libayao, a tribal chieftain assigned to the area by the defunct PANAMIN. Although Libayao denies the charge, he allegedly approached the OMACC regional office with a request for arms from the RUC/RECOM XI to aid him in his war against the rebels, according to OMACC employee Pilaes Magkidong.

The killing campaign first reared its ugly head shortly after bombings in Ampawid, Laar, on Oct. 29. That noon, eight bombs had been dropped from two Toratorator planes, and some 25 rattan gatherers were injured as they scampered for safety. Fearing for their lives, tribes living in the

vicinity began to evacuate to neighboring towns. En masse, they moved themselves and their belongings, Mandaya, Ata and Dibabawon tribesmen alike.

That same afternoon, the *Pangayao* claimed its first victim in the form of a Dibabawon woman. Her husband watched as Virginia Tapasaw, on her way home on horseback with salt that she had purchased, was waylaid by four men in red headbands. They shot the helpless woman, hacking her to death as she toppled to the ground.

Virginia's husband identified the *mangayao*, the killers, as lackeys of Datu Bulinaw Dumalandong of sitio Kapugi, Gupitan, a village in Kapalong.

Two days earlier, on Oct. 27, the Ata-Manobo and Dibabawon villages had been warned of an impending *Pangayao*. The next day, 22 Ata tribesmen were spotted in Upper Tagasan, bearing garands, besides their bows, arrows and spears. Witnesses

identified some of the men as followers of Datu Joaquin Sugatan, a known *Pangayao* leader. According to one witness who had been told about the *Pangayao* by none other than Datu Joaquin's son, the killing spate targeted NPA rebels, tax collectors, and sympathizers.

Leaving livestock, corn, peanuts and cacao behind, frightened families began to seek refuge in neighboring villages.

Early in the morning of Oct. 30, the dusty quiet of sitio Ngan, Kapalong, was shattered by the sound of gunshots a mere kilometer away. Villagers who chose to investigate discovered the corpses of a Dibabawon and an Ilocano, the flesh torn by bullet and hack wounds. Carrying a sack of peanuts from their farms, they had been attacked along the way by the dreaded *mangayao*.

Now consumed by near panic, the villagers moved further on, at last seeking refuge in the vicinity of a logging camp in Gupitan. Meanwhile, word of the evacuation had spread like

wildfire, finally coming to the attention of the local triumvirate of power: the government, the military, and the church. Thus, on Oct. 31, a conference was held in Tagum, attended by high-ranking officials, and led by Gov. Prospero Amato. A host of datos aired their views, as local officials listened.

It was at the Tagum conference that Jose Libayao's name cropped up as leader of the *Pangayao*. Allegedly among his followers and head *mangayao*s were Datu Kolokog Mansaloon, Datu Bulinaw Dumalandong, and Bgy. Capt. Joaquin Sugatan.

At the logging camp and in surrounding areas, on the other hand, some 1,640 evacuees sat on their haunches with little to do but wait. Dysentery and malaria raged among their numbers, despite the food and medicine that had begun to trickle in from the MSSD and such non-government organizations as the Humanitarian Alliance against Disasters and the Red Cross.

On Nov. 7, a fact-finding mission trekked to the locale to have a look at the goings-on. Composed of individuals from such varied groups as the media, the Tagum diocese, Task Force Detainees, and the governor's office, their findings only served to confirm what was already common knowledge.

They also found that Jose Libayao possessed some 100 firearms.

In a conference-dialogue called by the alleged culprit himself, Libayao denied that he led the *Pangayao*. The Kapalong mayor, Luzviminda Tamundong, pointed out that the *Pangayao* was victimizing rebel and civilian alike, Christian and non-Christian. There is talk that the big landlords in the area may have their hand in the dirty linen, in the hope of keeping the tribesmen from returning to their land.

In the midst of the ceasefire, the *Pangayao* reigns in Davao del Norte, shattering hopes for peace. For the tribesmen of Kapalong, the season is dark indeed. **MM**

BATAAN NPA ON RELIGION, OTHER ATTITUDES

Manila MR. & MS. (Special Edition) in English 19 Dec 36-1Jan 87 pp 24-25

[Article by Lilia Ramon DeLeon: "'Twas the Day After Christmas that the NPA Was Born']

[Text]

DO you celebrate Christmas? I asked the sparsely-built young man known as Ka Jebo to his fellow rebels. He smiled — perhaps with amusement at the prejudice revealed in my question — before answering: "Yes, we do. We celebrate with the people in their activities. Whenever we feel it's safe, we spend the night before Christmas with our families. We pray also, you know. The truth is we would go to mass if only *they* would let us." But would the military let Ka Jebo hear mass without pouncing on him at a tip from anybody who might want to earn the prize money on his head?

I was interviewing individuals from the town of Pilar (near Samal), in Bataan, who were active with the rebel movement. Many of them had already surrendered. In this, the season of reconciliation, I felt we should know and understand

them as fellow Filipinos and learn why they had to go underground or in their case, up the hills.

The attitudes and policies professed by the interviewees are those officially given by the Communist Party of the Philippines. The interviewees took care to be accurate in this regard. In fact, before answering some of my questions, they consulted their Collective to make sure they were giving correct information.

The NPAs, in general, are very disciplined and do not deviate from party policies and directives. And it's not accurate to say that most of them do not understand the ideology they are fighting for. Each member undergoes continuous, intensive teachings to the extent that although not everyone may be experts in the ideology the way academicians would be, all of them grasp the core of each of the concepts that make up the ideology. In

turn, from all indications, Filipino Communism has deviated from the Marxist one, in several respects. This article deals on the aspect of religion.

I interviewed Ka Jebo a week after the Olalia murder when the province was agitated by rallies and barricades protesting the brutal murder of the KMU leader. During that week, two bloody encounters between soldiers and NPAs broke out in the province. During the interview, I asked him if he wasn't feeling nervous — because I was, I was afraid for him, imagining battle-gearred soldiers surrounding the house and pouncing on the thin, dark boy, who despite being unshaven, still had the look of innocence in his eyes. But he said no, he wasn't afraid while in his hometown, where he was related to almost everybody either by blood or affinity. That's why he can go around town

on his motorbike, although there was a time during the Marcos regime, when to see the town dentist, he had to jump over her backwall, landing in her garbage pit, and to hold a hand grenade even while she treated him. He smiled again when he reminded me that President Aquino had afforded them "democratic space". Before the Olalia murder, he said, they were lying low anticipating the ceasefire.

Another of my interviewees was Romy, who was once member of the dreaded Sparrow Unit. A year or so ago, he had surrendered through the mediation of relatives and local civil authorities. He now earns P50 a day ferrying passengers on a rented tricycle. I asked him why he came to leave the NPA, and he answered: "*Supagha't ako at ang aking asawa, na isang guro, ay nagkabatahan.* (Because I and my wife, a teacher, kept pulling at each other)." And with his hands, he indicated a tugging of two opposite forces.

When you're with the Communists, you may only get for a girlfriend or wife someone who shares your ideology and commitment; if possible, someone who's also a member of the "*hulusan*"; or insurgent movement. But in Romy's case, he and his wife already had a relationship going even before he joined the "fight for true democracy". The CPP was not so coldhearted as to force him to break this attachment. As to be

expected, his wife kept pulling at Romy to get him away from the perils of his involvement, even while Romy kept trying to get her to share his own convictions. In this tug of war, one had to give in to preserve the marriage. His wife was big with their first child, Romy resigned from his work of meting the death penalty to those whom the Collective had tried and convicted — "incorrigible enemies of the people": such as drug-pushers, vice lords, criminals, informers, or spies.

Romy had his child baptized in the town's ancient church. He didn't have to shed his religious beliefs to join the NPA. But he explained that to be accepted into the "*hulusan*", one should rid oneself of all vices and wrong attitudes; the arbiters of socio-economic mores must be beyond reproach. Therefore, NPAs are not supposed to womanize, take drugs, or even to drink hard liquor. And they're pledged to work with and for the people, in the fields or in the factories.

Another former NPA whom I interviewed was Bobby. Muscled, hulking, and be-moustached, he fits to a tee the outlaw stereotype. As a "Red Fighter", in the mountains, he couldn't go to church, of course, but after he surrendered and got a job as a government employee in the provincial capitol building, he started going to mass again as he had as a child.

Having been with the "militia" means having

blood on the hands, but if Romy and Bobby felt guilty about this, then every soldier who has killed the enemy should put on sackcloth and ashes. For the NPAs believe they are fighters for a noble, selfless cause. They kill to defend the masses; on the other hand, the traditional army kills to defend the wealth and power of the ruling elite that exploit and oppress the masses, condemning them and their children to perpetual misery and bondage.

This is how "Nilo", whose real name I don't know, explained the *raison d'être* of the NPA. Jesus Christ, he declared, was a Communist. With this, he implied that Christians should understand the motivations of the struggle. This called to mind the Christians for National Liberation (CNL), one of the action groups under the umbrella of the National Democratic Front. The CNL is manned by clerics and religious workers.

Jolly and rubicund, Nilo reminds me of Robin Hood's Friar Tuck. In 1973, Nilo was arrested for pasting up Communist posters in Pampanga. After three months of jail, influential relatives were able to get him out, but not before he had suffered torture. The town's NPA sympathizers refer to him as "Tatang", although he seems to be only in his early 30s. He says he's with the NPA worker's movement doing community work — this means he's with the urban guerrillas. Among his

duties are propaganda work, organization of people action such as rallies and barricades.

"Nilo" explained that the Philippine Communists regarded religion as every citizen's inalienable right along with his rights to health, life, and freedom.

Depending on developments to ensue from talks and negotiations between the NDF and the government, my interviewees assure me they may take the "evolutionary" road to socialism, which means striving for a socialistic society through peaceful and legal means. They envision the NPA eventually integrated with the New Armed Forces of the Philippines — but not before the latter has been properly "reoriented" to have pro-people attitudes and aims.

The Significance of December 26 to NPAs

María, the town's dress-maker; Jasmin, who finished an electronics course in the town's vocational school, but is still unemployed; and her mother who goes around the province as a salesperson for an appliance firm, are "elementos" of the NPA. This means they act as couriers for its members, provide them when needed with food and lodging, and attend people movements. They hang up star lanterns at their windows and attend the *misa de gallo*, but on the day after Christmas, they celebrate with the NPAs the birth of the New People's Army in 1968 — 18 years ago.

María's face lit up as she described this celebration: "*Talagang maganda, may expo pa.*" She pressed me to join them in the coming one which they will hold as

usual at the NPA camp on the mountain. Ka Jebu had also told me about the anniversary. That these commemorations are inspirational can be inferred from their regular features: *Luksang parangal* (mournful honoring) of fallen comrades, community singing, cultural presentations, as plays that depict the justice and nobility of the *luluson*, and testimonials from members of the different sectors that comprise the movement.

The Communist spirit of brotherhood coincides with Christ's teaching of "love one another". Christ, like the Communist, stands for justice, equality, and human dignity; that's why the celebration of Christ's birthday doesn't jar against the commemoration of the founding of the New People's Army the next day.

So, why shouldn't NPAs celebrate Christmas?

BACKGROUND, BENEDICTO ROLE IN EXPRESS CLOSING

Manila HR. & MS. (Special Edition) in English 16-22 Jan 87 pp 14-16

[Article by Francoise Joaquin]

[Excerpts]

THE *Daily Express* is screaming bloody murder all the way to its inky grave. Since the PCGG ladled out a death sentence to the daily just after the New Year, scheduling its closure for the end of January, the publication has puffed itself to its full 12 pages to invoke the name of press freedom in its bid to survive.

"The primary consideration for the closure," claims Melanio Mauricio, president of the Philippine Daily Express Employees' Union (PDEEU), "is their being hurt by the critical stance of the paper. Our criticisms hurt a sensitive agency in the new government and this agency is now hitting back."

Interviewed at the PDEEU offices near Intramuros, Mauricio went on to stress that a history of articles and columns in the *Express* had headlined PCGG "wrong-doings" since the commission's creation. As he spoke,

a man in one corner of the room moved back from a poster he had just completed to admire its crimson and black message: "PCGG, Killer of Press Freedom".

Mauricio was not daunted by the suggestion that the concept of press freedom was a touchy one for the *Express* to latch onto in its hour of need, given the crony reputation that so often propelled copies of the paper onto the bonfires of anti-Marcos boycotters. "We don't deny," he said, "that the *Express* was not exactly an independent paper during Marcos' time. We're trying to shake off that crony image. Individually, you have some of the most professional reporters here."

The Express Publishing Company is part of the webbed network of companies owned by former ambassador Roberto Benedicto, who, through legal representatives, reached a formal agreement with PCGG commissioners at the end of

1986, specifying that of six companies owned by him and sequestered by the commission, those no longer financially profitable should be closed down. Of the sextet, which include the likes of television networks Intercontinental Broadcasting Corporation and Radio Philippines Network, and the movie outfit *Sining Makulay*, only the *Daily Express* has been targeted to be such a dismal failure as to warrant its being shut down.

Mauricio argues that such a scenario of financial disaster could not possibly be the case. If it were, he says, not only would the paper have been unable to sustain operations over the last 10 months, but it could not have met its payroll, its obligations, or its salary adjustments. "If we are able to do all of these things," he asks, "how can they say that we're losing?"

On the other hand, PCGG officials do not hesitate to spout damning figures illustrating the pathetic

state of health of what was once the third ranked national daily during martial law. Commissioner Quintin Doromal, head of the eight-man commission on the sequestration of media companies — and, interestingly enough, Benedicto's distant cousin on his

mother's side — claimed that from a peak figure of half a million in 1972, circulation had plummeted to a lousy 40,000 by 1986. Moreover, by December of that year, the paper had totalled a painful net loss of ₱13,308,022.

Despite the frantic pro-life appeals by the union, the PCGG has yet to loosen its grip on the executioner's axe. Citing "the opinion of the majority owner," Doromal explained, "The feeling of the board is that the assets and the indebtedness are such that there is no sense in prolonging the agony of the paper." The company's assets, which include two printing presses and a land rental contract good for another 19 years, amount to some P35M.

And in the midst of it all, lie the implications of Benedicto's dealings with the PCGG. In an interview at his Ortigas office last Wednesday, Doromal agreed, though carefully, that the loyalist stalwart's cooperation might have significant bearing on the process of ferreting out ill-gotten wealth. "I guess you could say," he said, "in the future, even with the facilities of the six stations, we would have more access to data that would indicate a more interlocking relationship not only with Benedicto but perhaps others."

That prospect, however titillating, is not one that particularly interests any of the Express union members at this point. Their priority is to hold on to their means of livelihood—a move it is impossible not to sympathize with.

And yet, is it all that easy to overlook the days when, as Mauricio himself admitted, the paper was less than independent? The record of how the EXPRESS comported itself throughout the Marcos years dies hardest of all.

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WEEKLY SPECULATES ON COAL FIRM INTENTIONS IN VENTURE

Manila MR. & MS. (Special Edition) in English 28 Nov-4 Dec 86 pp 18, 19

[Article by Bernardo V. Lopez: "Is F. F. Cruz Really After Coal?"]

[Text]

THE F.F. Cruz coal mine issue, the so-called "Chico 'Dam' of Mindoro" started in April 1986 when over a thousand Mangyans petitioned President Aquino to stop the mine operations because their ancestral land was threatened. The government acted quickly. The Task Force on Mangyan Rights and Welfare (TFMRW) was established, initiated by the local government. It is composed of the office of the governor of Mindoro Oriental (Chips y Espiritu, OIC) and a host of non-government support groups including Church-mandated organizations. The first task of TFMRW was to determine if the mines in Cambunang, Bulalacao were really inimical to the Mangyans. In support of their aims, the Bureau of Mines supplied TFMRW with data.

The bureau's files revealed studies done in the past for the bureau stating that, "The possibility of developing

large coal mines in the Bulalacao region does not appear to be good. The coal beds dip steeply, probably averaging about 45 degrees, and dislocations along many small faults may be expected. The presence of porous sandstone suggests that drainage in deep mines may be a serious problem." (Weiler and Vergara) F.F. Cruz present has a 20-degree tunnel.

The same point was echoed by an "ocular inspection report" by the National Environmental Protection Council (NEPC) dated July 30 to Aug. 1, 1986. It alludes to the same porous sandstone and steep tunnels. In reality, the ocular inspection of the mine tunnel, the first attempt to assess its environmental impact, never took place because F.F. Cruz barred the team from entering the mine shaft. One report stated that maps were removed from walls as soon as the NEPC team entered the

F.F. Cruz field office. The ocular inspection report accused F.F. Cruz of "an apparent concerted effort by company officials to limit the information to be divulged to the NEPC investigators". For example, the company refused to give the volume of "incidentally produced" coal which could reveal the actual production rate of the mines. What is it hiding from NEPC?

The TFMRW thus stated in its initial report that it seems as if it may be too expensive to extract coal in Bulalacao, *"maliban na lamang kung hindi lang karatun ang himahanap ng kumpanya"*. (Unless the company is after something else aside from coal).

F.F. Cruz once claimed, according to support groups, that it had sunk a staggering P30 million into the coal mine. It also promised electricity, roads, and a hospital if only to gain supporters among the lowlanders to counter the

Mangyans. With all the money at stake, F.F. Cruz must get back its investment. Where then is the take if the mines are not viable? This is now the mystery that is baffling analysts.

Perhaps F.F. Cruz's coal mining contract with the Bureau of Energy Development (BED), accomplished during the Marcos days (July 11, 1984) and still in effect today, holds the key to the mystery. In Semirara Island very near Bulalacao, the government-owned National Power Corporation (NPC) had a coal mining contract with the operator which "obligates NPC to pay (the operator) even for the coal the utility firm does not accept" (*Business Day*, Jan. 20, 1986). Does such one-sidedness exist also for the BED-F.F. Cruz contract or does a loophole exist which will permit F.F. Cruz to recover losses through intricate provisions?

The crux of the entire controversy revolves around the presumption that the State "owns" all resources, i.e. the coal. But that in itself is not the problem. It is the fact that government agencies like BED participate and benefit from that ownership. It is a blatant conflict of interest based on ulterior motives that BED issues policies and contracts by which it rakes in money. The State must manage its resources without prejudice to the people, its services and without self-interest. Otherwise, it achieves a colonial character.

The BED-F.F. Cruz contract allows F.F. Cruz to bring in mining machinery tax-free. Philip F. Cruz, Jr., the coal miner, is the son of Felipe F. Cruz, Sr., the construction magnate who holds big contracts with MPWH nationwide penned during Marcos' days and who was accused of smuggling into the country millions of pesos worth of construction equipment, as exposed in pre-revolution newspapers. Is there a connection between the alleged smuggling and the tax privileges? The illegal transfer of tax-free mining equipment to other corporations is a "normal practice" according to a mining industry source. In the early 80s, Argonex (coal) transferred tax-free trucks to its sister company, Eagle Mining (copper). Both are sequestered companies of the Tantocos.

The contract allows operating expenses not exceeding ninety per cent (90%) of the gross proceeds from production" to be reimbursable to F.F. Cruz. He is also entitled "to a fee . . . not exceeding forty per cent (40%) of the balance of gross income after deducting all operating expenses". It also has a "special allowance the account of which shall not exceed thirty per cent (30%) of the balance of the gross income after deducting all operating expenses". After all three are deducted, the balance goes to BED "as shares of the government". This profit sharing scheme is

the basis of the F.F. Cruz-BED alliance that worries members of the TFMRW. Perhaps the contract has many inherent weaknesses. For example, can operating expenses be easily bloated to cover losses? If operating expenses at worst hits 90% (the limit) and if F.F. Cruz rakes in 40% plus 30% (70%) of the net of 10%, BED is left with 30% of 10% or a meager 3% gross. Is there not one-sidedness in these provisions?

The ultimate question is: is F.F. Cruz really after coal or is there some bureaucratic quirk, a contract or a presidential decree by which it is ensured of the return on its huge investments in Bulalacao inspite of the coal that may be too expensive to extract. F.F. Cruz has several coal mines across the nation. Can the Bulalacao output compensate for production obligations of other mine sites, for which there may be stiff fines for failure to deliver? What is really the relationship between F.F. Cruz and BED? It is interesting to note that those who figured prominently in the approval of the contract back in 1984 are still in their same high positions at BED today. Mangyans also report that BED personnel arrive on F.F. Cruz's helicopter, regularly coordinating with F.F. Cruz, visiting the area often and even telling the Mangyans to stop their *hempins*. Is it possible that other minerals aside from coal are at stake? Is it.

possible that F.F. Cruz is assured of profits even if the coal mine fails because it may not have to pay for loans while retaining its assets? (F.F. Cruz once admitted getting loans from the Taiwan and Japan governments, later denied it, according to support groups. If the government is the guarantor for such loans, then the Filipino people will pay for the loans.) Is it possible that the mines are really feasible and profitable contrary to the theories of past studies? These are some of the questions that surround the mystery and controversy of the F.F. Cruz coal mines in Mindoro.

The Legal Situation. The TFMRW claims that F.F. Cruz is operating illegally because it does not have an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), a license issued by NEPC certifying that the operation is environmentally sound. This made F.F. Cruz claim that it was not operating and was in the "exploratory stage". But to NEPC, exploration is operation. Once one disturbs the environment, NEPC technically views this as the start of "operations", and is within its jurisdiction.

Also, the NEPC ocular

inspection report states, "It would be economically unwise for F.F. Cruz to enter into such contract with the government if until now it is still in the exploratory stage as it claims itself to be." The BED contract requires F.F. Cruz to produce 3,650 metric tons for 1986 under heavy fine. There are three unverified field reports from Mangyans — one, the presence of a new bulldozer that got stuck in the river during recent heavy rains, two, a new Caterpillar crane, and, three, fully-covered 16-wheelers heavy with cargo seen in the highways. *Daily Express* stated that industry "will soon be met with the *FULL-BLAST* operation of coal-mining by F.F. Cruz, Jr. Mining Co." (June 23, 1986). Is F.F. Cruz secretly expanding while NEPC gets bogged down on the important but tedious scientific studies? According to TFMRW, there is no freeze on operations, only a freeze on expansion, as agreed upon in NEPC-initiated talks.

The ECC is required under PDs 1586 and 2146. The penalty is suspension or cancellation of contract and/or a fine. Has this penalty been meted out? Is F.F. Cruz in fact blatantly operating illegally without an ECC?

If so, what agency is supposed to tow it in line? Why is it allowed to continue operating when NEPC has not yet determined if the mines are environmentally destructive?

NEPC now plays a crucial role in the fate of the F.F. Cruz coal mines because of the ECC. When F.F. Cruz reportedly withheld data to the inspection team, NEPC planned to penalize it, insulted by the move. Lately however, NEPC may be going soft and may issue the crucial ECC after all. It has recently created a fact-finding team of scientists and laymen to establish once and for all if the coal mines are environmentally sound. The process is tedious and technical, requiring scientific analysis. But the Mangyans pin all their hopes on NEPC. Nothing significant has happened since the two-week freeze on operation agreed upon last June. No scientific team has ever gotten off the ground. The Mangyans are in limbo, beset by tension and despair because of government inaction. The Mangyans do not know the real stand of the government, perceiving NEPC as a possible ally and BED as a formidable foe. Meanwhile, F.F. Cruz operates and strengthens its influence on lawmakers and on government. MM

BRIEFS

FOREIGN DEBT REPRIEVE--The government won a major foreign debt reprieve from its Western bilateral creditors. A French Finance Ministry official said the Paris Club and 14 other countries have agreed to grant delay of repayment over a 10-year period. The Central Bank said the agreement covered \$870 million of debt falling due between January 1987 and June 1988. It said repayment would start in April 1993 after a 5-year grace period. The Central Bank also said the conclusion of the agreement was facilitated by the strong support of all members of the Paris Club to contribute to the economic recovery efforts of the government. The Philippines will also hold talks on 27 and 28 January with the consultative group of 12 major bilateral aid donors including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Asian Development Bank. Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin said the Philippines will fill finalization of \$2 billion of official development assistance for 1987 from the group. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 23 Jan 87] /9599

CONSTITUTION STRENGTHENS POSITION ON BASES--The new constitution has strengthened the hand of the Philippine Government in dealing with the United States Government on the question of continuing the U.S. military bases in this country. Commissioner Vicente Fox said yesterday in reacting to a claim of former member of Parliament Honobono Adaza that U.S. authorities supposedly attempted to influence the Constitutional Commission when it was writing the provisions on the bases. If ever there was such an attempt, Fox said, it obviously failed. He said the charter provision states that when the existing military bases agreement with the U.S. expires in 1991, foreign military bases, troops, or facilities shall not be allowed on Philippine territory, except under a treaty approved by the Senate, and if congress requires it, ratified by the people in a referendum and considered trustworthy by the other contracting party. [Text] [Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0400 GMT 25 Jan 87] /9599

SIN URGES 'REALISTIC' LAND REFORM--Jaime Cardinal Sin, archbishop of Manila, yesterday [25 January] urged the government to give urgent attention to the issue of land reform in the wake of the tragic incident Thursday at Mendiola Bridge near Malacanang where at least 15 rallyists were killed and scores wounded. In a message delivered at the Manila Cathedral shortly before the afternoon mass, the outspoken prelate said that although the land reform issue cannot be resolved in a few months, realistic implementation of programs must

begin with all deliberate speed. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 25 Jan 87] /9599

STUDY ON U.S. RELATIONS--Philippine-United States relations, including the existence of the U.S. military facilities, will be the subject of a [word indistinct] study by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MFA] with the view of formulating foreign policy most beneficial to the country. The study will be conducted by the newly created Center for Diplomatic Policy Studies composed of senior MFA officials, scholars and other personalities from government agencies and the private sector, officials from the foreign service institute, and others. [Text] [Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 26 Jan 87] /9599

EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR AQUINO--The Hague, 3 Feb (AFP)--Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers and Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek have proposed Philippines President Corazon Aquino as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize, official sources said here. They were said to have sent a letter to the Norwegian committee, which decides on whom to confer the prize. The prime minister's spokesman, however, refused to comment on the initiative. Last Tuesday Mr van den Broek suggested that the European Economic Community should send a message of support to Mrs Aquino after the abortive military coup in Manila on Monday night. A spokesman for the foreign minister said the 12 had decided to wait until after the referendum on a new constitution for the Philippines, but the message of support would be transmitted in the near future by the Belgian ambassador in Manila. Belgium holds the presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers until June. [Text] [Paris AFP in English 1032 GMT 3 Feb 87] /9599

AUSTRALIAN ENVOY REFUTES AID FOR SISON--The Australian ambassador to the Philippines disproved the news that Jose Maria Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, received help from the Australian Communist Party or any other source in Australia. Ambassador John Holloway said that he does not know of any underground collection of funds or donations, or any groundless accusation. He said that the organizer of Sison's latest speaking tour in Australia told him that there was only a collection of some small amounts of money to pay for the halls and other things. One NPA surrenderee apparently was accused of involvement in these matters. When questioned by embassy men on the subject, he said he had no knowledge of these things. [Text] [Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Jan 87] /9599

RELEASE OF RALLYISTS--President Aquino ordered the release of all those who were arrested in yesterday's rally at Mendiola. The president also ordered the Marines to discontinue sending men to riot control situations. These orders came together with former Supreme Court Justice Vicente Abad Santos' acceptance of the chairmanship of a three-man team which will investigate yesterday's incident. Justice Jose Soria who was previously hailed as chairman will remain on the team as a member. The other member is Antonio Miranda of the Civil Liberties Union. [Text] [Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GMT 23 Jan 87] /9599

NPA RECRUITING--We have a flash report from the constabulary command at Camp Dangwa: The NPA in Ilocos Sur are stepping up their recruitment of very young people in the region. The operations have been reported in the towns of Cervantes, [word indistinct], San Emilio, Salcedo, Lidlidda, and other interior towns of the province. This was reported by the deputy commander of RUC [Regional Unified Command] one Colonel Juanito (Agdiar) who said that NPA leaders are actively recruiting young members to join their organization. The recruits are being told the campaign against the ratification of the new constitution on 2 February Col (Agdiar) said that about eight towns in the province of Pangasinan are also being subjected to this type of NPA modus operandi. The town of Dasol in Pangasinan is known to be the NPA's training center. [Text] [Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0200 GMT 30 Jan 87] /9599

WARNING AGAINST AIDING COMMUNISTS--Local government Minister Jaime Ferrer yesterday warned acting mayors and governors who support the communists. Ferrer told reporters that he has received reports that some 100 officers in charge are allegedly supporting communists. Ferrer added that he will impose stern punishment on whoever is proven to be conniving with the communists. [Text] [Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GMT 4 Feb 87] /9599

CSO: 4211/24

THAI ARMY TO ACQUIRE U.S., PRC TANKS

BK090824 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT 9 Feb 87

[By Devabhinand Devakul]

[Excerpts] Bangkok, 9 Feb (AFP)—The Royal Thai Army (RTA) plans to buy up to 50 U.S.-built light tanks and a number of Chinese-made main battle tanks and artillery pieces, a ranking army officer said here.

The Thai Army has formulated plans to buy up to 40 to 50 U.S.-built M48-5A light tanks and "a number" of Chinese-made T-69's, a modified version of the Soviet-built T-54 and T-55 models, Thai Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Suchinda Khraprayun said.

Lt Gen Suchinda said that despite budgetary restraints the military hardware was needed as part of a modernisation programme to streamline the army and to counter the threat of a possible attack by the Vietnamese.

He did not say how much the tanks would cost.

Thai Army Commander General Chawalit Youngchaiyut said in November that the army had been allocated a budget of 18 billion baht (700 million dollars) for fiscal 1987, half of which would be spent on salaries and allowances.

The Thai Army traditionally buys its weapons from the United States which has agreed to grant Thailand a military grant assistance of 50 million dollars in fiscal 1987 to replace a "dollar loan" system, military sources said.

But the RTA last year acquired 30 artillery pieces and about 20,000 to 30,000 artillery shells "free of charge from a friendly country," which otherwise would have cost the army about three billion baht (115 million dollars), Lt Gen Suchinda told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Observers believed that China was the "friendly country" referred to, but Lt Gen Suchinda refused to confirm this.

Commenting on the army's modernization programme, Gen Suchinda said the RTA's next project was to procure tanks from the same unidentified "friendly country" at about 10 percent of the present market price.

However, he added that official regulations were a stumbling block to an early procurement of the tanks, but did not elaborate.

The general said Thai infantry units were also in need of some 4,000-5,000 U.S.-built one-ton GMC trucks to "increase their mobility."

But he added that the army would only be able to buy some of the trucks it needs because of budget restraints.

Gen Suchinda said a stockpile of artillery shells sufficient to sustain an "all out invasion" for 15-20 days was also needed, and that the army was still short of artillery shells and would need a budget of about 4,000-5,000 million baht (153-192 million dollars) to set-up such a stockpile.

He also warned that the Vietnamese Army "spring a surprise offensive" against Thailand this year "despite all the odds against its success."

"This possible scenario cannot be ruled out because the Vietnamese may go crazy under the present situation where it is an underdog when it comes to international politics."

Comparing the armed strength of Thailand and Vietnam, Gen Suchinda said that Vietnam had 1,000 tanks and the same number of aircraft to Thailand's 200-300 of each.

In terms of manpower, Vietnam had 700,000 regular troops to Thailand's 100,000 and three million reservists to Thailand's 500,000-600,000.

He said Thai military strategists believe that one way to make up for this imbalance was to adopt a "total defence strategy" under which both civilians and regular troops would have to "join forces to fight the enemy."

"Vietnam should realize that it has spent up to eight years now waging a war in a country (Cambodia) with a population of only four to five million, and if so, it is very difficult to occupy a bigger country with a population of 40-50 million people," he said.

He said despite its obvious military edge over Thailand, Vietnam was still not ready to invade because it had not yet gained "total control" over Cambodia, while Hanoi would be "wasting" its resources in maintaining log logistic supply routes if it decided to attack Thailand.

"Vietnam will likely be at the receiving end in the event of such an attack," he added.

/9274

CSO: 4200/316

FOUR BORDER CAMPS FACE CUT IN UN FOOD SUPPLY

BK090105 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Feb 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] About 29,000 Khmer displaced persons living in four border camps associated with the Khmer Rouge are facing a possible supply cutoff by the United Nations unless their leaders allow officials of international relief agencies to monitor food distribution inside the camps, a top UN official here said.

The denial of access to the camps for relief officials has caused concerns that food supply could be diverted to the Khmer Rouge guerrillas who might be living among the civilians.

Tatsuro Kunugi, the outgoing special representative of the UN secretary general for coordination of Kampuchean humanitarian assistance program, told THE NATION in an interview on Friday that his office originally set last December as the deadline for the cutting of food and medical supply.

However, Kunugi said the UN Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) which assists those camps let the deadline pass without carrying out the threat.

He said the "leniency" was possible because leaders of the Khmer resistance group has started negotiations with UNBRO officials on the access question before the deadline was set.

"If we cut the food supply, thousands of Khmer civilians including women and children will have to suffer. We want to avoid that," Kunugi said.

Asked what will happen if the ongoing talks collapse, he said he hopes the negotiations by UNBRO's Director Y. Y. Kim and the Khmer Rouge leaders will make good progress to avoid the supply cut.

The four camps are Huai Chan housing 8,000 Khmers and Natrao with 14,000, both located in Si Saket Province, Bo Rai with 3,000 and Ban Ta Man with 4,000, both in Trat Province.

Kunugi, who is due to leave his office next month, said he could not confirm that the UNBRO's humanitarian assistance to the four camps, "which is meant for civilians only under UN resolutions, is not being siphoned off by the group's military personnel."

He said UNBRO's officials and relief workers have been allowed by leaders of the camps to visit "only the entrance areas once or twice a month" but they could not enter the camps.

He said UNBRO did not directly deliver food and medicine to the camps but had to pass the supplies through the Thai army which controls the border areas.

The matter was reported to UNBRO's major donor countries at a meeting in New York City in December when government representatives were told "access to the smaller northern and southern border encampments and evacuation sites of Huai Chan, Natrao, Bo Rai and Ban Ta Luang is still not satisfactory despite repeated efforts made by UNBRO."

"Monitoring of humanitarian assistance is an essential requirement of UNBRO's operation and unless this problem is resolved by mid-December, UNBRO will have no alternative but to discontinue its assistance to the camps concerned," according to UNBRO's report presented at the donor meeting.

The only other camp of Khmer Rouge's civilian followers which the UNBRO has access into is Site 8, housing 30,000 Khmers in Prachinburi Province.

The cutting off from the outside world of the Khmer Rouge's camps has always been a concern of humanitarian officials and embassy diplomats.

They said on 13-15 January the Khmer Rouge moved about 1,700 of their followers, mostly women and children, from Site 8 to Natrao without informing the UNBRO and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICSR) which has the primary responsibility for protecting the Khmer civilians.

They were suspicious about the motive of the movement of Natrao which is a camp associated with Ta Mok, the right-hand man of Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot.

Separation of military elements and civilians is a major concern for Kumugi, who has originated the plan as a prevention of military action against encampments along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

He said he reached an "understanding" with the Hanoi-backed Heng Samrin regime in Phnom Penh in April 1985 that attacks on civilian encampments could be avoided if "there is a clear separation of civilians and Khmer resistance forces."

He said the unwritten understanding is being jeopardized by last month's shelling of Site 2, an encampment of about 150,000 Khmers in Prachinburi Province.

The 26 January incident injured eight persons in the camp, including three children.

/9274

CSO: 4200/316

STATEMENT ISSUED ON SAFETY OF REFUGEES AT BORDER

BK070315 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday released a statement confirming that the Thai Government has not yet implemented its plan to relocate the Kampuchean refugees at the Khao I-Dang holding center to Site 2 or any other sites along the border. The release was produced following concern by the United Nations Border Relief Operation over the safety of the refugees assumed to be in the new site and reports on the Vietnamese shelling of Site 2 on 26 January, which resulted in injuries of nine Kampuchean civilians. The release said the Kampucheans who are to return to the border area will be as secure as their compatriots, numbering more than 260,000, encamping along the border as well as the Thais living in nearby areas. It emphasizes that Thai soldiers are ready to protect territorial integrity as well as lives and property of all nationals living on Thai soil.

The release noted that currently the situation along the Thai-Kampuchean border has decreased its tension and that the security of the refugees and border Thai people depends on whether Vietnam would continue its acts of aggression against Thai sovereignty. Besides the release said Vietnam should accept ASEAN proposal on the establishment of the safety zone inside Kampuchea to insure safety of the Kampuchean refugees.

/9274

CSO: 4200/316

GEM-DIGGING MINERS CROSS BORDER INTO CAMBODIA

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 7 Dec 86 p 12

[Article by Thawip Khlamprasoet: "Along the Trat Border, Sounds of Explosions in Mining for Gems"]

[Excerpts] Last Sunday's article on "Along the Trat Border" contained a few mistakes, perhaps because I was still seasick from the boat ride to various islands organized by Mr Thongdam Banchuan, the provincial governor. The name of the Bo Rai district officer is actually Mr Wirat Anurathat, not Wira (I want to apologize here). The name "Wira" is not a lucky name today. After attaining the rank of minister, he failed. That seems impossible, but it happened.

But let's talk about daily life in Bo Rai District, Trat Province, which is the country's easternmost province, and see how the people here have managed to survive by mining rubies, or "Siam rubies." The province is thinking about organizing "Siam Ruby Days" during the period 10-12 January 1977 to usher in "Visit Thailand Year" in response to the policy of the government, which cannot get a good price for Thailand's rice.

Even though officials refuse to grant mining concessions to expand the gem mining area because this area is located next to a forest preserve, the cabinet has passed a resolution to have Trat Province coordinate things with the Chanthaburi-Trat Border Defense Command to allow people to dig for gems by hand in a 111.56 square km area outside this zone. (People can engage in small-scale mining using shovels and pickaxes but cannot engage in spray mining or use heavy equipment.)

This area where people can dig for rubies is only about 3 km from the Thai-Cambodian border. More and more people have expressed a desire to carry on small-scale mining operations in this area in order to raise their standard of living.

Because this area is just 3 km from the Cambodian border, the problem is that some Thai become so engrossed in their mining activities that they cross the border into Cambodia in search of gems. Some do this intentionally, pretending that they don't know where the border is. Some dig for gems as far inside Cambodia as Battambang. As a result, hundreds of people have disappeared. Many who have returned have had their legs blown off when they stepped on land mines

set by either the Cambodians or Vietnamese. The people who have suffered as a result of their greed are the Thai who have sneaked across the border to dig for gems.

"Besides the fact that up to 200 pieces of heavy equipment are used in mining gems in this district, which is more than anywhere else, this district also has the largest number of handicapped people in the country. Artificial limbs are in such great demand here that an artificial limb center has been established," said Mr Wirat Arunthat, the Bo Rai district officer.

"There is both a morning and afternoon gem market here. Each day, about a million baht worth of gems are bought and sold in this district. About 4-5 years ago, trading reached about 10-20 million baht a day. Some merchants even go into the gorges. The price depends on the weight and what the two sides want. But if a miner does not sell at the mining site and tries to sell it at the market, he will probably be offered a lower price. The gem merchants are very clever and are kept well informed. They know where the gems were mined, who made an offer, and how much was offered," said Mr Wira about the lives of the gem miners. He then took me to see a spray mine, which is a different kind of mine.

Spray mining is carried on in areas where there are steep slopes. Powerful water pumps are used to pump water into sprayers. The sprayers are then used to spray water at the ore, which has been put into piles by tractors. The spray of water pushes the ore into a water channel, or "long yo," from where the material flows into a gem separator known as a "chik."

This "chik," or separator, vibrates, causing the gems, which are heavier than the other material, to fall to the bottom onto a screen. (The gems are definitely not allowed to fall into the canal or mine, because gems are money.)

The rocks and other materials that are lighter are carried on past the separator through the water. They also pick through the ore in the separator to look for small gems. The miners may find garnets, topaz, or "pylin," which sparkles after it is cut and polished.

11943

CSO: 4207/101

GROWTH IN BORDER PATROL STRENGTH, INFLUENCE DISCUSSED

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 18 Dec 86 p 6

[Prachachun Stop Sign column by Wisakon: "Commissioner's Office of the Border Patrol Police: a Proposal To Make Improvements"]

[Excerpt] At a time when the police are known for their corruption and inefficiency in controlling crime, the Police Department is expanding greatly. And this expansion overlaps other units.

Toward the end of the Prem 4 administration, the Police Department made structural changes and assigned additional units and manpower to the Commissioner's Office of the Border Patrol Police. The objective of the Commissioner's Office of the Border Patrol Police is different from that of other Police Department units. Its job is to maintain internal security while that of other units is to control crime.

Even though the Commissioner's Office of the Border Patrol Police is not the main unit of the Police Department, it is a very big unit, accounting for 22.28 percent of the manpower of the Police Department. Its budget is approximately 2 billion baht a year, which is 21.83 percent of the Police Department's 1987 budget. This money is used to carry on operations based on the plans to maintain internal security, develop the hill tribes, and provide agricultural services. Its budget is larger than that of two important economic units, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Industry, whose budgets are approximately 1.5 billion baht. Now that the Commissioner's Office of the Border Patrol Police has been expanded with the addition of 12 more police precincts, 36 additional sections, 74 additional companies, and another 10,000 men to staff these new units, its budget will definitely increase, too. This comes at a time when the country has budget limitations and we must be more careful about spending in order to have greater efficiency.

However, it is not my intention here to discuss the suitability of expanding the Commissioner's Office of the Border Patrol Police. That would be pointless in view of the fact that a decree to expand this unit has already been drafted. What needs to be looked at is whether there is anything else that will need to be changed after the structure and responsibilities of this unit are changed.

The first thing that I would like to discuss is personnel. As mentioned above, the Police Department is a unit that has expanded greatly. However, some feel that it has grown in an unplanned manner and that this has slowed things down by as much as 2 years.

In order to solve the problems in assigning personnel to the new positions and assigning people to the Commissioner's Office of the Border Patrol Police based on the new structure, if people are assigned based on the usual slots, it will take 5 years to assign commissioned officers and 6 years to fill the NCO slots. If the Police Department assigns personnel like this, it is expected that the Commissioner's Office of the Border Patrol Police will initially encounter a slow down in operations based on the new structure just as happened with the Police Department during the period 1976-1977.

11943

CSO: 4207/101

PREM RELATIONSHIP WITH SENIOR GENERALS VIEWED

Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 18 Dec 86 pp 20, 21

[Unattributed report: "Relations Between Prem, Phichit, and Wichit"]

[Excerpt] Prem and the Military

Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, took over this position from Gen Kriangsak Charnana in 1980. At that time, Gen Prem was the RTA CINC. Prior to that, who would have thought that an officer from the "countryside" such as the 2d Army Region commander, that is, Gen Prem, would rise to the top so quickly. He was promoted to assistant RTA CINC and RTA CINC and then became prime minister, all in a very short span of time.

Although Gen Prem is now retired from the military and is no longer in direct command of military units, the power and prestige that he once had continues to help prop him up in his present position as prime minister.

Gen Prem had a close relationship with Gen Krit Sivara, the former RTA CINC. It is said that Gen Krit purchased some land near Ra 8 in Nakhon Ratchasima in order to build a vacation house and that Gen Prem purchased a plot of land nearby so that they could live next to each other after retirement. But Gen Krit died before he could build a house there, and his family sold the land to someone else.

"And so Gen Prem sold his plot there and bought another piece of land in front of the 2d Combat Support Headquarters," said Gen Pathom Soumain, the former chief of staff officers, who served as the chief of staff of the 2d Army Region during the period that Gen Prem was the commander of that army region. Gen Prem built his "vacation" house in Korat with his own money. Some months he didn't have enough money and so had to postpone construction on the house. Thus, it was a long time before construction was completed.

The Origin of the Term "Ra"

It is said that Gen Prem can be very stubborn. During the period that he was the 2d Army Region commander, he became ill and stayed at his house, refusing to go see a doctor. His orderly didn't know what to do and so telephoned Gen Pathom in Sakon Nakhon Province. Gen Pathom flew to Korat and finally

persuaded Gen Prem to go see a doctor. Another special characteristic of Gen Prem is his phenomenal memory. Gen Pathom said that after being introduced to officers in the army region and eating together just once, Gen Prem could remember the names of all the officers. And not only did he remember the names of just the officers. He also remembered the names of their wives and children.

Gen Prem was promoted to major general on 1 October 1968 and appointed commander of the Cavalry Center in Saraburi Province. He was then 48 years old. The Cavalry Center is the cavalry's national center. Thus, the commander of the Cavalry Center is like the "father" of cavalrymen nationwide. It was while he was the commander of the Cavalry Center that people started calling him "Pa."

Prem Supports People

Because Gen Prem does not have a family and because he is very frugal, his salary is more than adequate to meet his needs. He uses some of his money to support soldiers who have family problems. Thus, there is a very tight bond between Gen Prem and these soldiers. These soldiers form a power base for him now.

"Pai, Lt Col Suraphan Phumkao, the commander of the 1st AAA Battalion and the president of CMA (Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy) Class 20, once served under Gen Prem in the 2d Army Region. That was when he [Pai] was still a sublieutenant. Pai was able to attend the Army Command and General Staff College as part of Gen Prem's quota.

Another example is Maj Gen Surayut Chulanon, who replaced Maj Gen Monkhor Amphornphisit as aide to Gen Prem when Maj Gen Monkhor was appointed commander of the 9th Infantry Division in Chanthaburi Province. He has worked closely with Gen Prem before. He is a member of Military Cadet Class 1, or CMA Class 12, members of which are now in command of several units.

As for Gen Prem and Gen Chawalit, the present RIA CINC, Gen Chawalit has been a close aide of Gen Prem since 1980 and has carried out both political and military tasks for Gen Prem. Today, he is still a power base for Gen Prem. The only question is how long this relationship will last.

Prem, Peter, and Sam

If you mention the name "Peter," very few people will know to whom you are referring. This is because this name is used only by a few close friends. But everyone knows Gen Phichit Ruklanit, the assistant RIA CINC. Gen Phichit and "Peter" are one and the same person. Similarly, "Sam" is the nickname of Lt Gen Wichit Sukmak, the chief of the Territorial Defense Department. The name "Peter" is derived from the first letter of Gen Phichit's name, that is, "p." "Sam" comes from the surname of Lt Gen Wichit, "Sukmak." Both of these nicknames were given to them by foreigners during the period that they were students at West Point in the United States.

Both Gen Phichit and Lt Gen Wichit are members of CRMA Class 2. Because these two men had the highest scores on the examination, after completing their first year at CRMA, they were given scholarships to attend West Point.

The relationship among Gen Prem, Gen Phichit, Lt Gen Wichit, and Col Kasem (surname unknown, is deceased) began in the United States. Gen Prem, who was a major at the time, had gone there to take the cavalry battalion commanders course at Fort Knox. All of them lived with an American family named "Benjamin."

Because of studying together abroad, these men have a deep relationship. Gen Prem was the senior officer and so was the "elder brother." It is said that Maj Prem established a regulation that all had to follow: After returning home from classes, no one could speak Thai. Anyone who spoke Thai was fined 25 cents. And the amount kept increasing. As a result, all four of these men speak English rather well. However, Gen Prem lived with the other three in the United States for only about a year. Gen Phichit and Lt Gen Wichit did not complete their studies until 1958.

Relations Are Still the Same

Gen Phichit was born in 1932. After graduating from West Point, he attended the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He took the course for platoon leaders and the ranger and airborne courses. He was given the name "Big Sam" while serving as an paratroop instructor in Thailand.

Lt Gen Wichit was born in 1933. He is the son of an orchardman in Nonthaburi. His father died when he was 13 years old and so he was supported by relatives. After graduating from West Point, he took the cavalry battalion commanders course at Fort Knox just like Gen Prem.

As for their relations with the Benjamin family, after Gen Prem became the prime minister, when he visited the United States in 1983, he took this opportunity to visit this family. He writes to them regularly. Lt Gen Wichit sends a gift to them every year. Mr Benjamin died 2 years ago of old age.

Gen Prem, Gen Phichit, and Lt Gen Wichit maintain the same relations as before. Whenever they have a chance, Peter and Sam visit Ban Sisao (Prem's residence). Gen Prem usually calls them Peter or Sam rather than Phichit or Wichit. In particular, besides the fact that Lt Gen Wichit is a fellow cavalryman, Gen Prem served as host when Lt Gen Wichit and his wife Chintana were married at CRMA.

Because of these things, Gen Prem should be able to remain in his position as prime minister longer than his predecessors. But as for how long he will remain, only time will tell.

1983

ZSO: 4207/104

PAPER SEES CONTINUATION OF PREM POOR LEADERSHIP

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 20 Dec 86 p 6

[Editorial: "A Song Without Rhythm"]

[Text] Even though the remarks about the economy made by Gen Prem Tinsulanon before members of the Foreign Chamber of Commerce on 18 December were filled with hope that Thailand's economy in 1987 will be much better than in 1986, the question is, what basis is there for assuming that the economy will be such brighter next year and what is being done to prevent this bold statement from suffering the same fate as his statement several years ago about a "brilliant" future?

Clearly, the statements made by Gen Prem to members of the Foreign Chamber of Commerce show that one basis for expanding the economy is promoting exports, because exports earn foreign currency. But this will not be easy at a time when almost every country is facing increased protectionism, particularly from the developed industrialized countries.

One thing for which Gen Prem has been sharply criticized is his lack of a clear and consistent policy to deal with the foreign trade and rice problems. What is very sad is that even though we have been buffeted time and again by problems stemming from U.S. protectionism, with everything from textiles to rice affected, there is still no single unit responsible for handling this matter. Preparations are made on an ad hoc basis. Thus, Gen Prem's hope of launching an offensive and moving ahead seems doomed to failure.

It is also necessary to mention the measures concerning the rice and farm problems. The government has entrusted matters to regular government officials, few of whom have any experience about such matters. Also, some hope that the "Visit Thailand Year" in 1987 will help revive the economy. But this may be just wishful thinking, because this income has been estimated in a very loose manner, and "sales" preparations have been made in a rush.

From the above, it can be seen that Gen Prem's statements are like a song without rhythm. His words are just a poor attempt to increase morale. This is the same thing that he did in the past when he talked about Thailand's "brilliant" future. But the reality is that the people are in darkness and are without hope.

Actually, the people have placed their hopes in the government of Gen Prem. But these hopes will not solve anything. They must be accompanied by tangible programs. And what is even more important, there must be continuity, and things must be handled by economic "professionals." These problems can't be entrusted to people whose only qualification is that they are honest.

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CSO: 4207/101

BANGKOK POST EDITOR ON STATUS OF PREM GOVERNMENT

BK090702 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Feb 87 pp 1, 3

[By the Chongkhaadikit]

[Text] Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon is determined to lead his "loose" coalition through the predicted April parliamentary crisis and to remain in power until the end of his four-year term, sources close to him told the BANGKOK POST yesterday.

His leadership today shows to all those working with him that he is now the "real boss," remarked the sources.

He will stick with the present coalition and will not reshuffle the Cabinet, despite the inter-party and intra-party disputes, and despite the hope of some prominent opposition leaders to join the government, according to the authoritative sources.

Efforts by anti-Prem elements to break up the teamwork of Army Commander-in-Chief General Chawalit Yongchaiyut and the Prime Minister's Secretary-General, Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsir, have failed. The two have remained in close consultation, discrediting published reports that personal and official differences have brought about serious disagreement between them.

The Chawalit-Prasong combination provides Gen Prem with the strong support of the military and the civil service (Sqr-Ldr Prasong heads a special committee of the permanent secretaries of all ministries).

Gen Chawalit is expected to stand by his pledge to retire from the army after a two-year service, but his place will most probably be taken by another firm supporter of Gen Prem Lieutenant-General Sunthon Khongsomphong, Assistant Army Commander-in-Chief while the next Army Chief-of-Staff is most likely to be Lt Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, with Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun rising to Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

There is also the possibility that Gen Chawalit would be appointed deputy defence minister as there is at present only one deputy defence minister. Therefore, according to knowledgeable sources, it is unlikely that Gen Chawalit would be considered or threatened as "a lame duck" during his last year of active service.

Gen Prem has gained the self-assurance to strategically and successfully confront the opposition's planned assaults against his administration and ministers, the sources disclosed. No more is he concerned over threats of no-confidence vote against himself, as reported to be the case in the past.

He has also regained the confidence of the people through what one of his closest confidantes described as "his road show." During his visits over weekends and official holidays, he makes it a point to talk to the people and find out their problems, instead of simply sitting in a provincial office to hear an official briefing by the governor, like past premiers did.

Knowing the realities of the situation, he has the advantage of making sure that local officials really act to help the people. This, according to the sources who accompanied him on these trips, has strengthened his political position vis-a-vis the coalition parties as well as the opposition parties. As a result, he can make quick decisions without fear or favor, the sources noted.

The Prime Minister is aware of the activities of his various Cabinet ministers and knows how to deal effectively with any problems concerning them.

Gen Prem is reported to have a great sense of humour as well as common sense. He is supposed to have said that if a certain influential person in a village was found to be stealing cattle he should be appointed village chief because then he would have to make certain that no more cattle are stolen or else he would get into real trouble with the villagers and the government.

Gen Prem is very active and making himself very visible to the public, more aggressive and more confident than ever before, and he has demonstrated that he could be cool and keep order in emergencies, the sources said. They said that there has been no evidence of his being "depressed" over the political and economic conditions, as rumoured.

The actions of which Gen Prem takes greatest pride, according to the sources, are his courageous operation to evict opium warlord Khun Sa out of Thai territory, thus delivering a deadly blow against the "Golden Triangle" narcotics trade, and his saving of the Bangkok oil refinery from the clutches of a person using the lease of the plant to amass great wealth for himself with overseas sales of oil to the tremendous disadvantage of the country.

The sources also mentioned that Gen Prem's "kitchen cabinet" comprising dedicated officials like Interior Minister Prachuab Santrangkoon, Gen Chawalit, Sqdr Ldr Prasong, Minister Chirayu Itsarangkun Na Ayutthya, government spokesman Michael Wirawaithaya and Cabinet Secretary General Anan Anantakun has contributed considerably to the stability of a coalition which is reputed to be "loose."

/9274

CSO: 4200/316

INFANTRY, ARMOR BATTALION COMMANDERS' STATUS REVIEWED

Bangkok SIAM RWT SAFTA WICHAN in Thai 7-13 Dec 86 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Profile of Battalion Commanders, the Coup Power Base"]

[Text] After the reshuffle of colonels, in which regimental commanders were promoted to deputy divisional commanders, and deputy regimental commanders were promoted to regimental commanders, the next reshuffle will be of lieutenant colonels, who wield great influence in the army.

Battalion Commanders and the Power Center

In terms of controlling forces, battalion commanders seem to be just as important as regimental commanders. This is because battalion commanders are in command of majors, captains, NCOs, and privates. The forces at this level have often played an important role in staging coups. An example is the attempted coup of 1 April 1981. The Young Turk officers used more than 40 battalions to stage the coup. Even though the coup failed, it had a great impact on politics and the military.

For this reason, in the military chain of command, divisional commanders are responsible for controlling the regimental commanders, and the regimental commanders are responsible for controlling the battalion commanders. Besides being a normal arrangement of the forces, this is aimed at preventing units from engaging in activities not sanctioned by superior officers.

One reason for the importance of the battalions is that in each period, the power center has built its power base at this level. During the period that Gen Athit Kamlangek served as supreme commander and RTA CINC, several battalion commanders became involved with the power center. One clear example is the "Young Turk Royal Elephant" group headed by Chief of Staff Hank, that is, Col Phiraphong Sapphakphisut, a member of CRMA [Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy] Class 17. But now that Gen Athit has retired, it seems that this group has lost influence.

Infantry/Cavalry in Bangkok Metropolitan

The important infantry and cavalry units stationed in Bangkok Metropolitan include the 1st King's Guard Infantry Regiment, the 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment, and the 1st King's Guard Cavalry Regiment. Because besides being important military units, these units have always been the spearhead in coups.

The 1st King's Guard Infantry Regiment is presently commanded by Col Somphep Attanan, a member of CRMA Class 14. This regiment consists of three battalions, the 1st Battalion commanded by Lt Col Kittisak Suanmatani, the 2d Battalion commanded by Lt Col Phrom Tangkhrat, and the 3d Battalion commanded by Lt Col Winit Watrasakuni. The 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment consists of the 1st Battalion commanded by Lt Col Praphan Nilawong, the 2d Battalion commanded by Lt Col Phaisan Katanna, and the 3d Battalion commanded by Lt Col Ronyut Rutthiruchai. Although the 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment is presently commanded by Col Amphon Sawetserani, during the recent reshuffle of colonels, Col Amphon was appointed chief of staff of the 1st King's Guard Division. So far, no one has been appointed to take his place as regimental commander. It is thought that he will be replaced by Col Thitiphong Chennuwat, the commander of the Military Cadet Regiment.

The 1st King's Guard Cavalry Regiment, which is commanded by Col Watthanachai Chaimuangwong, a member of CRMA Class 12, has three battalions, the 1st Cavalry Battalion commanded by Lt Col Dichawat Runcharamuson, the 2d Cavalry Battalion commanded by Lt Col Suriya Sakunchat, and the 4th Cavalry Battalion commanded by Lt Col Somyet Khlongwicha.

Who Is Who in the Various Classes?

Looking at the vacant positions in the 1st and 11th King's Guard Infantry regiments, it seems that the battalion commanders have very little chance of moving up. This is because the deputy regimental commanders and regimental chiefs of staff have not been transferred. Thus, there is little chance of the battalion commanders in these two regiments moving up unless their superiors feel that the time has come to promote certain battalion commanders. And if they are transferred, they will probably be transferred outside these units.

The same thing is true with respect to the 1st King's Guard Cavalry Regiment, because the deputy regimental commanders will remain in place. However, the position of deputy chief of staff of the 2d Cavalry Division is still vacant. Col Sangham Sawangkhat was appointed staff officer to the commander, and no one has been appointed to take his place. The person who replaces him must be a full colonel at the level of deputy regimental commander. Thus, one of the deputy regimental commanders may be appointed deputy chief of staff of the 2d Cavalry Division, which would give a battalion commander a chance to be promoted to deputy regimental commander.

The 4th King's Guard Cavalry Regiment and the 5th Cavalry Regiment, which are based in Saraburi Province, should be watched closely. In particular, the 4th King's Guard Cavalry Regiment, which is commanded by Col Narong Nakpricha, has three battalions, the 5th Cavalry Battalion commanded by Lt Col Narong Nilawat, the 11th Cavalry Battalion commanded by Lt Col Winai Maniwong, and

the 20th Cavalry Battalion commanded by Lt Col Phibun Mungmai. When Col Narong Nakpricha was moved up from deputy commander to commander in place of Col Rattana Chalomsaenyakon, who was appointed chief of staff of the 2d Cavalry Division, this opened up the position of deputy regimental commander. It is very likely that Lt Col Narong Nilawat, a member of CRMA Class 15, will be appointed to this position, because he has greater seniority than the other battalion commanders in the regiment.

The 5th Cavalry Regiment, which is commanded by Col Chamlong Bunkraphu, a member of CRMA Class 12, has three battalions, the 23d Cavalry Battalion commanded by Lt Col Ramon Pinthong, the 24th Cavalry Battalion commanded by Lt Col Phiraphong Nakhasathian, and the 25th Cavalry Battalion commanded by Lt Col Rangrot Chamratromran.

Keep an Eye on CRMA Class 18

By class, the commanders of infantry and cavalry battalions stationed in Bangkok Metropolitan and Samaburi Province are as follows:

CRMA Class 16: Lt Col Winai Maniwong, the commander of the 11th Battalion, 4th King's Guard Cavalry Regiment.

CRMA Class 17: Lt Col Phiraphong Nakhasathian, the commander of the 24th Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment; Lt Col Phiron Tanpharat, the commander of the 2d Battalion, 1st King's Guard Infantry Regiment; and Lt Col Phanuphong Phratho, the chief of staff of the 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment. Staff Officer Hank is a member of CRMA Class 17, too.

CRMA Class 18: Lt Col Dichawat Kuncharanuson, the commander of the 1st Battalion, 1st King's Guard Cavalry Regiment; Lt Col Winit Watrasakuni, the commander of the 3d Battalion, 1st King's Guard Infantry Regiment; Lt Col Praphan Nilawong, the commander of the 1st Battalion, 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment; Lt Col Phaisan Katanya, the commander of the 2d Battalion, 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment; Col Konthi Suwannarat, the commander of the 1st Battalion of the 1st King's Guard Artillery Regiment and concurrently deputy commander of the 1st King's Guard Artillery Regiment; Lt Col Ramon Pinthong, the commander of the 23d Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment; and Lt Col Kopsun Wichit, the commander of the 4th Battalion, AAA Regiment. Col Suphachai Rotphothong, an aide to Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC, is the class president.

CRMA Class 19: Lt Col Kittisak Suwannatemi, the commander of the 1st Battalion, 1st King's Guard Infantry Regiment; and Lt Col Somyot Khlongwicha, the commander of the 4th Battalion, 1st King's Guard Cavalry Regiment.

CRMA Class 20: Lt Col Romyut Rutthiruchai, the commander of the 3d Battalion, 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment; Lt Col Wichit Yathip, an aide to Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut; Lt Col Suriya Sakunchat, the commander of the 2d Battalion, 1st King's Guard Cavalry Regiment; and Lt Col Phibun Mungmai, the commander of the 20th Battalion, 4th King's Guard Cavalry Regiment. Lt Col Suraphan Phumkaeo, the commander of the 1st Battalion, King's Guard AAA Regiment, is the class president.

CLASS 18, ARMY, AIR FORCE, POLICE COMMANDS, CHAWALIT TIES

Bangkok SIRM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 21-27 Dec 86 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Keep an Eye on Military Cadet Class 7 and Relations With Big Chiu"]

[Text] Three weeks ago, SAPDA WICHAN presented a general picture of battalion-level commanders, but no one class was profiled. Today, CRMA [Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy] Class 18 will be profiled. More and more officers from this class are being assigned battalion commands. Besides this, many officers from this class are serving with the navy, air force, and police.

Military Cadet Class 7

Besides carrying out their main military duties, battalion commanders sometimes perform other tasks, such as serving as the important forces in a coup attempt or carrying on political activities. For example, some classes carried on activities to express their displeasure when an attempt was made to cut the army's secret budget.

Even though the members of CRMA Class 18, or Military Cadet Class 7, seem just like officers from other classes, that is, even though they have earned the trust of their superiors and been assigned suitable positions, one striking thing about this class is that this class commands many battalions and there is strong class solidarity.

Of the approximately 200 army battalions, more than 50 are commanded by members of this class. And each of these battalions is an important force. Members of CRMA Class 18 who command important battalions include Lt Col Ditchawat Runcharamuson, the commander of the 1st Battalion, 1st King's Guard Cavalry Regiment; Lt Col Winit Watrasakuni, the commander of the 3d Battalion, 1st King's Guard Infantry Regiment; Lt Col Praphan Nilawong, the commander of the 1st Battalion, 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment; Lt Col Phaisan Katanmu, the commander of the 2d Battalion, 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment; Col Konthi Suwannarat, the commander of the 1st Battalion of the King's Guard Artillery Regiment; Lt Col Ramon Pinthong, the commander of the 23d Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment; Lt Col Korbun Wichit, the commander of the 4th Battalion of the AAA Regiment; Lt Col Wawirom Manatransil, the

commander of the 1st Battalion of the 21st King's Guard Infantry Regiment; and Lt Col Prawit Phromrat, the commander of the 21st Artillery Battalion, 21st King's Guard Infantry Regiment.

It can be seen that members of this class command important infantry, cavalry, and artillery units. Besides this, two of these battalion commanders, Lt Col Nawinon Manatransi, the commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion, and Lt Col Prawit Phromrat, the commander of the 21st Artillery Battalion, command units that are subordinate to the 21st King's Guard Infantry Regiment (the Queen's Tiger Regiment).

Many Air Force Officers

Members of military Cadet Class 7 are not rising to important command positions just in the army. Of the members of Class 7 still on active duty, that is, excluding those who have resigned their commissions, died, or taken positions in other government units, 36 are serving in the air force. Those who hold important positions include Wing Commander Chumphon Saenthawisuk, the commander of Squadron 203, 2d Wing; Wing Commander Burirat Rattanawanit, the commander of Squadron 202, 2d Wing; Wing Commander Chumphon Thongkham, the commander of Squadron 331, 53d Wing, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province; Wing Commander Channan Phomthong-in, the commander of Squadron 403, 4th Wing, Sakai; Wing Commander Rawin Hongsakun, the commander of Squadron 711, 71st Wing, Surat Thani Province; Wing Commander Suchat Manithapho, the commander of Squadron 231, 23d Wing, Udon Thani Province; Wing commander Watchara Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya, the commander of the 1st Battalion, King's Guard Air Cadets Regiment; and Wing Commander Phonchai Ramkomut, the logistics chief, Directorate of Logistics.

Nine members of Military Cadet Class 7 who were serving in the air force have been killed. Six were killed in airplane crashes, and three died from illnesses. Besides this, a few members of this class are serving in the navy.

Many Policemen

It seems that the majority of Class 7 members are policemen. That is, 69 chose to be policemen. Of these three have been dismissed from government service and two have resigned to work in the private sector. Most policemen from this class hold the rank of police lieutenant colonel and are serving as chief inspectors in Bangkok in the provinces. However, many are full colonels and are serving as police superintendents.

Examples are Police Col Chatchai Sichantha, the deputy secretary of the Police Department; Police Col Ramon Huahongthong, the superintendent of precinct 1, Police Education Bureau; Police Col Chatchai Wannasathit, the deputy chief of the Research and Planning Division; Police Col Thirachit Utama, the superintendent of the Police Provincial 3, Phitsanulok Province; Police Col Phiphatphon Phunsukwattana, an instructor at the Sampran Police Academy; Police Col Annuai Phetrasiri, the deputy chief of the Research and Planning Division; Police Col Wasan Wotsanon, the superintendent for personnel, Police Provincial 3, Lampang Province; Police Lt Col Adison Nonthari, the deputy superintendent of Precinct 2, Suppression Division; Police Lt Col Kamen

Kaewsuan, the chief inspector at the Dusit Police Station; and Police Lt Col Rongkiet Aphaiwong, an inspector at the Bangrak Police Station.

Relations with Big Chiu

Relations between Military Cadet Class 7 and Gen Chawalit Vongchaiyut, the RTA CINC, are quite clear. Two members of this class serve as aides and staff officers to Gen Chawalit. Those two are Col Suphachai Rotphalithong and Col Thotsarot Muangam. Col Suphachai is the class president.

The class held a party at the beginning of November. Gen Chawalit attended this party, too. This gives a clear picture of what relations are like between this class and the new power center.

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CSO: 4207/104

CIOMA CLASS 5 POLITICAL FORTUNES ASSESSED

Bangkok LAENG NHAO in Thai 17-23 Dec 86 pp 13-16

[Unattributed report: "Waiting To Pounce?"]

[Text] "What's happened to CIOMA [Chulachonklao Royal Military Academy] Class 5? What are they doing?" These are questions to which soldiers and political observers are trying to find an answer. This is because these officers, who are considered to have great power in the army and who have much influence in shaping the political situation, have failed to respond to recent political events and instead remained silent. During the past 2 months, they have not expressed any views at all on the power issues.

Eight members of CIOMA Class 5 are divisional commanders, one commands the Special Warfare Command, which is the equivalent of an army region, one commands an army region, many are heads of departments, and one is the deputy army chief of staff. Thus, it is very strange that they have remained silent in every situation.

"Most recently, when a problem arose over the army's secret budget, only CIOMA Class 1 and the deputy RTA CINC tried to explain things to the special subcommittee that was considering the draft of the 1987 fiscal budget. CIOMA Class 5 refused to become involved," said a news source in the army.

The Path of CIOMA Class 5

Around the middle of 1981, after the defeat of the "Young Turks" of CIOMA Class 7, who staged the 1-3 April rebellion, there was a radical shift of power in the army. CIOMA Class 7, which had had very close ties to Gen Prem Tinsulanonda, the prime minister, and which had managed to gain control of almost all the infantry regiments, was eliminated from power circles. As a result of this shift, CIOMA Class 5, which was the senior of the two classes but which had not been close to the power center, had a chance to move into positions of power in the army by stepping into the positions vacated by members of CIOMA Class 7.

The year 1985 was the golden year of CMA Class 5. That was the year that a member of this class, Lt Gen Suchinda (Shraprayan), was appointed assistant army chief of staff for operations. At the same time, 11 of the army's 17 divisional commands were given to members of Class 5.

"At that time, CMA Class 5 had both political and military influence. General Athit Kamlanpak, the then RFA CINC, and Gen Chawalit Vongchalyut, who was then serving as the army chief of staff, both wanted to hold the Class 5 'card,'" said the news source.

A Wrong Step

But following CMA Class 5's very promising step forward in 1985, the officers of this class made a very serious mistake when they decided to vie for power. This stemmed from the fact that there was an overlap in time left in government service between the class of those considered to be heirs to the army's top spots, that is Gen Chawalit and Lt Gen Suchinda Shraprayan, the then commander of the Special Warfare Command, and CMA Class 5, which was headed by Lt Gen Suchinda. The class decided to vie for power by becoming involved in the conflict between the two political-military power poles, that is, Gen Prem Tinsulanonda, the prime minister, and Gen Athit Kamlanpak, the RFA CINC and supreme commander until his 1986, and the power struggle within the army between Gen Athit and Gen Chawalit Vongchalyut, the then army chief of staff, who sided with the prime minister.

In May 1986, CMA Class 5 supported the opposition parties in the House of Representatives that criticized the government's acts, with the result that the government had to dissolve parliament. Class 5 also exerted pressure on the government to grant another 1-year extension to Gen Athit. This meant that CMA Class 5 had taken the side of Gen Athit in order to topple Gen Prem, who was supported by Gen Chawalit, in the hope of rising to the top position faster than usual or without having to overcome any obstacles stemming from the overlap with CMA Class 1 in time left in government service. These decisions had a serious effect on CMA Class 5 when Gen Athit lost the battle for power and was dismissed from his position as RFA CINC in August 1986.

"CMA Class 5 was in too great a hurry. Big Chu had already promised to step down as RFA CINC in 2 years in order to give younger officers a chance to move up. He didn't plan to give this position to a fellow classmate or someone else," said the news source.

Major Reshuffle, Break up of Power

The September military reshuffle clearly shows that Class 5 has lost the struggle for power in the army, because Class 5 now commands fewer divisions than before. At the army region level, even though Lt Gen Wiron Wongsawat was appointed commander of the Special Warfare Command and Lt Gen Tinsulanonda Anphakdi was appointed 3d Army Region commander, considering the overall "balance of power," CMA Class 5 has lost power. Because as a counterbalance to CMA Class 5, Lt Gen Chalchana Tharichat, a member of CMA Class 1, was appointed 1st Army Region commander, Lt Gen Wisit Atthasuwong, a member of CMA Class 2, was appointed 4th Army Region commander, and Lt Gen Wattanasak

Antisiri, a member of CEMA Class 4, was appointed 1st Army Region commander. Thus, CEMA Class 5 does not have the advantage that it had before when its power was spread throughout the divisions. Furthermore, at the level of Army Headquarters, with the exception of Lt Gen Sakthinda, who was appointed deputy army chief of staff, not one member of CEMA Class 5 was appointed to an important position.

"CEMA Class 5 will have to wait if it wants to rise to higher positions. For the moment, they will have to be content serving as deputy army region commanders and deputy commanders of various units in order to wait for promotion to lieutenant general. This is not because of a broad distribution of power. CEMA Class 1 is the center. Besides this, people such as Maj Gen Kan, the commander of the 1st Division, and Lt Gen Winon trust the commander," said the news source.

Finishing and the New Tendency

It seems that CEMA Class 5 has been deeply hurt by its defeat. Since then, the members of this class have not made any attempt to express their views. Thus, the present image of CEMA Class 5 is one of great mystery. During the past 3 months, the government and military have faced a number of political and military crises. This includes offensives launched by the opposition, the issue of the secret budget, and so on. But in each case, CEMA Class 5 stayed out of things.

"They are not carrying on any activities. I don't know whether they are supervising any problems," said a staff officer attached to the RFA CEC.

Gen Chawalit has now made a number of mistakes. This includes his defeat in the power game with the secretary general of the prime minister, who is supported by Gen Prem, his uneasy relations with the United States over the communist and narcotics problems, and in particular the army's political defeat on the issue of the secret budget. In view of this, it is felt that by remaining silent, CEMA Class 5 will benefit in the long term. The narrow path to power on the outside after Gen Chawalit leaves the military in 2 years and the fact that CEMA Class 5 will not be involved in putting pressure on the new government will help members of this class achieve their objectives.

"We are staying out of things. We will not become involved with anyone," said a member of CEMA Class 5. He refused to say any more.

Who Is Who in CEMA Class 5?

1. Lt Gen Sakthinda Khiraprayan, the deputy army chief of staff.
2. Lt Gen Isaraphong Khiraphakdi, the 1st Army Region commander.
3. Lt Thiraphan Nakta, an instructor at the National Institute of Development Administration.
4. Phleng Maj Gen Banchu Wanyakorn, the commander of the Suppression Division.

5. Maj Gen Choetchai Thirattanon, the deputy 1st Army Region commander.
6. Police Col Sala Khaosamli, the deputy commander of the Suppression Division.
7. Maj Gen Phaibun Emphan, the deputy commander of the Army Weapons Development Center.
8. Maj Gen Wichit Kri-ngoen, the provost marshal.
9. Maj Gen Khachon Ramanwong, the commander of the 1st Special Forces Division.
10. Police Maj Gen Wirot Pao-in, the commander of the Northern Bangkok Metropolitan Police.
11. Maj Gen Phaibun Hongsinlak, the deputy 2d Army Region commander.
12. Lt Gen Wimon Wongwanit, the commander of the Special Warfare Command.
13. Maj Gen Suthep Siwara, the deputy chief of the Territorial Defense Department.
14. Maj Gen Wirot Saengsanit, the commander of the AAA Division.
15. Police Maj Gen Mongkhon Surathin, a commander attached to the Police Education Bureau.
16. Maj Gen Chamlong Phakcharoen, the chief of staff of the 2d Army Region.
17. Lt Gen Prasert Sanrut, the adjutant general, Supreme Command Headquarters.
18. Maj Gen Choe Phosinak, the commander of the 4th Infantry Division.
19. Maj Gen Somphon Toemthongchaiya, the deputy 2d Army Region commander.
20. Maj Gen Araya Ukhotsakit, the commander of the 2d Cavalry Division.
21. Maj Gen Loet Phungphak, an officer attached to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense.
22. Maj Gen Phairot Chantha-urai, the commander of the 1st Cavalry Division.
23. Maj Gen Chatchom Kanlong, the director of logistics.
24. Police Maj Gen Winit Charoensiri, the assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.
25. Maj Gen Phuchong Ninlakharn, the commander of the Artillery Division.
26. Maj Gen Chamlaeng Uchukomon, the chief of staff of the 1st Army Region.

27. Maj Gen Yutthana Yaemphan, the deputy 1st Army Region commander.
28. Maj Gen San Siphon, the commander of the 1st King's Guard Infantry Division.
29. Maj Gen Bunthaen Nianchaloei, the commander of the 3d Infantry Division.
30. Maj Gen Woraphim Ditsayabut, the commander of the 11th Division.
31. Maj Gen Thawon Rattanasadi, the director of intelligence.
32. Maj Gen Pramon Phalasin, the director of operations.

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CSO: 4207/102

BANKS AGREE TO CUT LOAN INTEREST RATES

BK050301 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Feb 87 pp 11, 26

[Text] Six major commercial banks yesterday agreed to bring down their minimum loan and minimum overdraft rates to 11.5 percent, effective 16 February.

The present 12 percent minimum loan rate (MLR) is lowered by 0.5 percent to 11.5 percent while the present 12.25 percent minimum overdraft rate (MOR) is lowered by 0.75 percent to 11.5 percent.

The six banks are Bangkok Bank, Thai Farmers Bank, Krung Thai Bank, Siam Commercial Bank, Thai Military Bank and Thai Danu Bank.

Spokesman of the Bangkok Bank Dr Sathit Uthaisi said the decision was made by the six banks and not by the Thai Bankers' Association.

However, he said that the six banks will inform other local and foreign banks here of their decision.

The spokesman said that whether the other commercial banks follow suit will depend on their own individual decisions.

He was optimistic that the cut in interest rates would stimulate local investment, especially the lowering of MOR to the same level as MLR because in Thailand's business the overdraft facility is more popular among businessmen than term loans.

He also said that the rates on general loans, of which the present ceiling rate is 15 percent, will also automatically begin a downward trend.

Dr Sathit also said that the cut in rates will enable commercial banks to adjust themselves to the inconsistent rate situation.

The lowering of rates, he said, will cut commercial banks' profits substantially.

In regard to the interest rate on housing and agricultural loans and loans for priority sectors, the spokesman said that the six commercial banks have not yet discussed the issue.

Commenting on the rate decrease by the six banks, Nakhonthon Bank President Suwit Wangli said his bank will also bring down both rates to the same level.

However the decision has yet to be reached by the bank's board of directors.

Meanwhile, Kamchon Sathirakun, governor of the Bank of Thailand, said that the reduction in the lending rates will help stabilise interest rates for a while.

However, he said, how long the stabilisation will last depends on the situation in foreign markets.

He suggested that commercial banks not bring down the deposit rate since a reduction would affect saving mobilisation.

Regarding the interest rate cut, Mr Kamchon said the central bank will maintain the official lending ceiling rate at 15 percent because a reduction of the ceiling rate would make the spread between the maximum lending rate and the rates of prime customers narrower.

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CSO: 4200/316

STATE-OWNED BANKS NOT TO CUT INTEREST RATES

BK060145 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Feb 87 p 26

[Text] State-owned banks will not follow commercial banks in reducing loan interest rates for prime customers, Permanent Secretary for Finance Dr Phanat Simasathian said yesterday.

Mr Phanat reasoned that the nature of most state-owned banks' business is different from commercial banks. He added, however, Krung ai Bank [KTB] is the only state-owned commercial bank.

He made the above comment following reported speculations that state-owned banks may join the move of six commercial banks to cut their minimum loan and overdraft rates [MLR and MOR] to 11.5 percent from 16 February.

KTB is one of them, he said.

He also said that whether Siam Bank will follow suit does not depend on the Government as it is not state-owned and its major shareholder is the Fund for the Rehabilitation and Development of Financial Institutions.

He added that the Government Savings Bank's main business is not extending loans to the general public, the Government Housing Bank has just reduced its interest rate recently and the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives has nothing to do with commercial banking.

"We will call a meeting of state-owned banks in case we want to consider lowering deposit interest rates as a cut will affect the majority of the public," Mr Phanat said.

Meanwhile, Bank of Asia President Yot Uachukiat said the bank will not immediately reduce its MOR and MLR.

"We will wait and see the market situation as competition among commercial banks is very keen. After that, we will review whether to cut our rates," Mr Yot said.

"We believe that the announcement of rate cuts, effective from 16 February, will have the least effect on first-class clients because they can now basically borrow money at lower rates than the present prime rate," he said.

He added that the current 15 percent rate ceiling should not be lowered, otherwise commercial banks' profits will be affected.

"Personally, I think that the suitable differential between deposit and loan interest rates should be about four percentage points. As the present differential is only three points, the loan interest rate should not go down further," he added.

Mr Yot also said the small differential had caused his bank's profit to fall in the past. But he added hopefully: "The situation should improve this year and we still intend to raise our capital by 300 million baht annually as stated in our five-year plan, starting this year."

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CSO: 4200/316

BRIEFS

GROUP OF 77 CHAIRMAN--Thai Ambassador to Austria Sawanit Khongsiri has won a unanimous vote to become this year's Chairman of the Group of 77 in Vienna. Mr Sawanit is also Thai permanent representative to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation [UNIDO] and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The group plays a key role in the preparation of the second UNIDO conference to be held in Bangkok in November as well as the international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking to be held in Vienna in June. [Summary] [Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 2 Feb 87 BK] /9274

130 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ARRIVE--About 130 Vietnamese boat people landed in Thailand's four southern provinces from 16 January to 1 February, the Royal Thai Navy said. The Vietnamese arrivals, including 31 children, were admitted to a refugee camp in Songkhla. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said late last year that a total of 6,305 Vietnamese boat people were sheltered in the camps in this southern province. [Text] [Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 6 Feb 87] /9274

JAPAN ASKED TO CUT INTEREST--The Finance Ministry has asked the Japan Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund to cut its interest rate on the 13th yen loan from 3.5 to 2.5 percent, Finance Minister Suthi Singsane said yesterday. Mr Suthi said the yen's strong recent appreciation against the U.S. dollar had created a heavy burden on Thailand's loan repayment. On top of that, Thailand is still suffering a huge trade deficit with Japan, he said. If the interest rate on the loan could be brought down by one percent, it would tremendously help boost Thailand's economic recovery "which will benefit both parties," he said. The 13th yen credit is yet to be granted and its amount is usually based on the amount of the 12th, which was about 72 billion yen. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Feb 87 p 3] /9274

TWO COMMUNIST BORDER CAMPS SEIZED--Nan--Troops have seized two communist camps in Pua District and have driven about 80 insurgents out of the country, Task Force 32 Chief Col Nivat Khunchon said yesterday. He said the success came in the early stage of the Phithak Phukha anticommunist insurgency operation which was recently launched in this northern province. Soldiers, rangers and Border Patrol Police units are taking part in the mission which concentrates on Khao Khukha and Doi Pha Ngan in Pau District. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Feb 87 p 3] /9274

AMBASSADOR TO SIERRA LEONE--Whereas his majesty's government has proposed to the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone the appointment of Mr Sukhum Ratsamithat as his majesty's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Sierra Leone to succeed Mr Prasoet Matudi, the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone has duly given agreement to the said appointment. [Text] [Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 27 Jan 87 BK] /9274

RICE SALE TO IRAQ--Thailand and Iraq have reached a preliminary agreement under which Iraq will buy 60,000 [metric] tons of rice from Thailand. The agreement was reached during the visit by a Thai Commerce Ministry delegation to Iraq on 17-21 January. The agreement specified the delivery of 60,000 tons of 100-percent Grade-2 rice in March, May, June, and July. [Summary] [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 28 Jan 87 BK] /9274

COMMUNIST SYMPATHISERS SURRENDER--Nakhon Si Thammarat--Five communist sympathisers surrendered to Fourth Army Commander Lt Gen Phisit Atkhunwong in Muang District yesterday. A Fourth Army spokesman said the five, from Ranong Province, included Phloi Phongsiang, wife of Comrade Samruai Khansaman, a communist leader. A sixth sympathiser, Nat Nusong, from Phatthalung, surrendered to an army officer in Thung Song District yesterday evening. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Jan 87 BK] /9274

PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS ON ENERGY POLICY--Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon recently reaffirmed the government commitment to liberalizing energy trade, but said the role of private enterprise in the strategic energy sector will continue to be restricted. Speaking about the government's energy policy at the first press conference for this year, Prime Minister Gen Prem said that for some operations related to the country's security, the government must be very prudent what role the private sector can play. The prime minister also stressed the need to restructure the prices of oil products whose applications are substitutable, such as gasoline, high speed diesel, and LPG, in accordance with the actual marketed value of the products. To achieve that objective, he said the government will scrap the oil fund now used to subsidize certain oil products. [Text] [Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 2 Feb 87 BK] /9274

THIRTEEN COMMUNIST REBELS SURRENDER--Nakhon Si Thammarat--Thirteen communist insurgents surrendered to the Fourth Army in two defections yesterday. A source said the eight members of the first group were attached to the communists' camp 520 in Khlong Thom District of Krabi Province. The camp leader, Ruai Khamklip, was captured last year. One insurgent, Miss Wanna Pongthongmuang, 27, said she and the other defectors joined the communists after government forces shot dead 11 of their relatives and burned their houses in Tambon Sipun, Khao Phanom District, Krabi, on 22 August, 1980. They decided to surrender because their neighbors, who had defected on 21 December, were welcomed and later released. The members of the second group were attached to the communists' camp 523 in Wiangsa District, Surat Thani Province. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Feb 87 p 2] /9274

VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE--About 130 Vietnamese boat people landed in four southern Thai provinces between 16 January and 1 February, a navy spokesman said today. He said the Vietnamese, including 31 children, were admitted to a refugee camp in Songkhla Province after they sailed nine fragile boats across the Gulf of Thailand. [Excerpt] [Bangkok THE WORLD in English 5 Feb 87 p 32 BK] /9274

PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT EGYPT--Egyptian Ambassador Dr Ihab Surur presented an invitation to Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon for an official visit to Egypt in March. Gen Prem will likely stay in Egypt for four days during which he will hold formal talks with his Egyptian counterpart on increasing bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, said government spokesman Michai Wirawaithaya. Thailand and Egypt have a plan to start a joint venture in a cement plant in Egypt with Thai technical know-how. The project will be financed by investors from a few Middle Eastern countries, he said. Egypt is the first stop of Gen Prem on his trip to Western Europe in March. [Text] [Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Feb 87 p 2 BK] /9274

CSO: 4200/316

TONGA

BRIEFS

TONGA'S FOREIGN RESERVES--Tonga's foreign reserves stood at a record level of about U.S.\$22 million at the end of last year. Figures issued by the government statistician showed the foreign reserves rose by 22 percent over the year despite a drop in the world market price for Tonga's main export product, copra. The increase was due in part to increased remittances from overseas, higher earnings from tourism, and greater development assistance. [Excerpt] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 87] /9604

CSO: 4200/296

BRIEFS

BRITISH AID TO TUVALU--Britain has announced a grant of more \$5 million [currency not further identified] for the construction of a new inter-island passenger and cargo ship for Tuvalu. Tuvalu's only ship, the ("Navanga") is 26 years old and has reached the end of its useful life. The ("Navanga's") high operating cost and frequent breakdowns have been a major burden on Tuvalu's fragile economy. The British High Commission in Suva says the new ship will be built in Britain and delivered to Tuvalu in the middle of next year. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 87] /9604

CSO: 4200/295

COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

SIHANOUK 'WILLING' TO HOLD TALKS WITH SRV, USSR

HK021014 Hong Kong AFP in English 1002 GMT 2 Feb 87

[By Pierre-Antoine Donnet]

[Text] Beijing, 2 Feb (AFP)--Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said here Monday he was willing to hold unconditional talks on Cambodia with Vietnam and its principal backer the Soviet Union.

But the prince said the key to a political settlement of the Cambodian conflict lay with China, the Soviet Union, Vietnam and the Khmer Rouge.

"I want dialogue between Sihanouk and the Vietnamese, between Sihanouk and the Soviets without any conditions," the prince told a press conference here.

"I have many things to say to them. I want to speak my mind," said the leader of the resistance's Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), who little more than a year ago said here that he would rather trade bullets than dialogue with a senior Soviet official who was in Beijing at the time.

The prince said he must take a positive attitude: "This is essential for an international conference (on the Cambodian problem)."

But he said he could not accept a proposal, purportedly made by Vietnam, for a meeting of the three resistance groups, including the Khmer Rouge, and Cambodia's pro-Vietnamese rulers.

He added that the communist Khmer Rouge and its main backer China had also rejected this proposal.

The prince's son and spokesman, Prince Norodom Ranariddh [name as received], said last month that the proposal had been conveyed by Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu to Prince Sihanouk during the latter's visit to Bucharest on 12 January.

Vietnam denied having made such a proposal, and reports in the BANGKOK POST newspaper that Panoi was willing to negotiate a ceasefire, withdraw its

troops from Cambodia and accept a coalition government comprising the three resistance groups and the government of Heng Samrin in Phnom Penh.

Prince Sihanouk said China, the Soviet Union, Vietnam and the Khmer Rouge held the key to a political solution of the Cambodian conflict, and that he was powerless to do anything.

He said that as president of the UN-recognized CGDK he was "paralysed" by the veto right of his partners in the coalition--the Khmer Rouge and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF)--the decisions of China.

"We are the victims of a dispute between China and Soviet Union, between China and Vietnam," said the prince.

He added that he fervently hoped Beijing could patch up its differences with Moscow and Hanoi and that all he could do was to wait for this to happen.

The prince said he was only half pleased by recent fighting on the Sino-Vietnamese border.

The Chinese are killing a lot of Vietnamese soldiers and officers every week and this is good for us," he said.

However, he added: "I want China and Vietnam to have friendly relations."

He said Vietnam seemed ready to make "some small concessions," given that its ally the Soviet Union was trying to mend its fences with China, but that otherwise only "trickery" could be expected from Hanoi.

An estimated 140,000 Vietnamese troops are stationed in Cambodia to prop up the Heng Samrin government in the face of resistance from some 50,000 CGDK guerrillas.

Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping has identified Soviet backing for the Vietnamese presence there as the main obstacle to normalization of Sino-Soviet relations.

The prince said that Beijing still demanded the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia before negotiations could take place.

He added that if China allowed him to approach Hanoi with a proposal for talks it was because they knew that Hanoi would refuse the offer.

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CSO: 4200/316

COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

SIHANOUK ON VIETNAM TIES, NEGOTIATION OFFER

LD212312 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1707 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Belgrade, 21 Jan (TANJUG)--Democratic Kampuchean President Prince Norodom Sihanouk said today that Vietnam had made an offer to him to negotiate in Bucharest with representatives of the Heng Samrin regime.

Speaking at a news conference here, Sihanouk said the offer was conveyed by Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu during his visit to Bucharest last week.

Hanoi was forced to propose negotiations since its occupation troops in Kampuchea are in great difficulties, he said.

Sihanouk said the Kampuchean question was not only the country's internal problem, and made it clear that its settlement can be negotiated only by the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea and the government of the occupier--Vietnam.

Sihanouk did not rule out the possibility of talks with the leaders of the Phnom Penh regime, Heng Samrin and Hun Sen, but made them conditional on Phnom Penh's recognition of the legitimacy of Democratic Kampuchea and its coalition government as the sole representative of the Khmer people as the United Nations has done.

Sihanouk did not rule out the possibility of convening a UN-sponsored international conference on Kampuchea with the participation of all parties concerned and countries willing to assist in the settlement of the problems of Kampuchea. He mentioned Yugoslavia, France, the ASEAN countries, China, the Soviet Union and Vietnam as possible participants.

The Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea is ready to agree to the presence of representatives of the Phnom Penh regime at such a gathering, but only as one of the parties involved.

Sihanouk expressed willingness to discuss the settlement of the Kampuchean problem with representatives of the Soviet Union, on condition that he is treated as head of a state recognized by the United Nations, not a representative of a rebel movement.

Sihanouk said the Soviet Union's readiness to discuss the Kampuchean question during negotiations on normalizing relations with China as a positive step towards resolving the Kampuchean problem.

The president of Democratic Kampuchea described his visit to Yugoslavia and talks with its leaders as very successful, adding that the friendship of the two countries has deep roots and that both countries were among the founding members of the movement of nonalignment.

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CSO: 4200/316

COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

UN SPECIAL ENVOY ON ATTACKS ON CAMBODIAN REFUGEES

BK290145 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Jan 87 p 2

[Text] A top United Nations official yesterday expressed serious concern that further attacks on displaced Kampuchean camps can jeopardize the separation of civilians and Khmer fighters along the Thai-Kampuchean border's camps.

Tatsuro Kunugi, special representative of the UN secretary general for coordination of Kampuchean humanitarian assistance programme, on behalf of all the relief agencies, called on all warring parties to refrain from all military action in encampments along the border.

A press release issued by Kunugi's office said relocation of the camps may become necessary if there are any attacks in the future.

The release said the separation of the military elements from civilians "has greatly contributed to the mitigation of human suffering of hapless Kampuchean civilians and instability in their lives."

International relief agencies have tried to set apart Khmer fighters from the civilians in the encampments, particularly those under the control of the communist Khmer Rouge.

It said Kunugi, his deputy Jamshid Anvar and Y. Y. Kim, director of the UN Border Relief Operation (UNBRO), yesterday toured the site of a shelling on Monday in which eight people, including three children, were injured, one of them seriously.

According to the release, four shells landed in and around Site 2 camp at Ta Phraya District in Prachinburi Province, which houses about 150,000 Kampuchean displaced persons. However, there have been no official accusations as to which of the warring sides fired the shells.

Kunugi also led his team to visit the wounded in a hospital run by the International Committee of the Red Cross at Khao I-Dang, another Khmer refugee camp in Prachinburi.

"This incident once again demonstrates the potential danger to which the Kampuchean displaced persons are continuously exposed in the evacuation sites along the Thai-Kampuchean border," the release said.

It said the shelling was the first serious incident since Site 2 was established nearly two years ago.

Three main Khmer resistance forces supported by the United Nations are fighting Vietnam and Hanoi-installed Heng Samrin regime in Phnom Penh to liberate Kampuchea.

Kunugi will leave here to serve the Japanese Government on 1 March when his office will be closed and his responsibility will be assigned to S. A. M. S. Kibria, executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The move was initiated by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to save the cost of the world body.

Meanwhile, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) issued a press statement to condemn Vietnam for its shelling of Site 2.

The resistance group called on all the peace and human rights-loving countries to join it to "vigorously condemn this Vietnamese barbarous shelling aiming to kill Khmer civilians."

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CSO: 4200/316

COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

KPNLF'S GENERAL CHEA CHHUT ENTERS MONKHOOD

BK050915 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 4 Feb 87 p 3

[Text] Ta Phraya--General Chea Chhut of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front loyal to Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea Prime Minister Son Sann entered monkhood this morning at a temple in Site 2, Samlar Chhnganh [Prasat Tbeng], 20 kilometres north of Ta Phraya, a field source reported.

The ordination ceremony for Son Sann's most-trusted military commander was held at 10 a.m. in Site 2 camp for Khmer displaced persons. After that the general will remain at Prasat Serei Temple within the camp's perimeter.

It was not known, however, for what reasons he entered monkhood and for how long the KPNLF top military commander will remain in the temple.

Another top KPNLF military leader, Gen Dien Del, also entered monkhood at this temple on 20 July last year. However, Gen Dien Del has already left monkhood.

At the height of the rift inside the KPNLF early last year, the resistance group under Gen Chea Chhut, 41, remained loyal to Son Sann and reportedly had a conflict with Gen Sak Sutsakhan who was later dismissed as military supreme commander.

On 12 February last year, Son Sann set up a new military committee which comprised Prum Vit as military leader, Gen Chea Chhut as first deputy leader.

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CSO: 4200/316

COUNTRY'S RECOVERY CITED ON EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY

OW190901 Hanoi VNA in English 0706 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Hanoi, 19 Jan (VNA)--The People's Republic of Kampuchea which has just celebrated its 8th anniversary (7 January) still needs assistance from fraternal countries and international organizations.

Realities in reviving Kampuchea have shown that the people's life has been stabilized as they have got self-sufficient in food and necessities. But the living conditions require great efforts and a long time to restore, as many public facilities were either destroyed or left in ruin by the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Great and courageous efforts have been made in agricultural production to expand the cultivated acreage to about 2,000,000 ha: large quantities of bombs and mines have been removed, arable land has been improved, many irrigation projects have been repaired or rebuilt, and many other measures have been taken to overcome the consequences left behind by the Pol Pot regime. Kampuchea is striving to put 2,500,000 hectares under crops, thus restoring the acreage achieved in the 1970's.

In the western province of Battambang, known as a major rice granary capable of feeding the whole country, the verdure of lush rice, maize and tobacco is covering most of the province which shares a common border with Thailand. A defence line stretching over hundreds of kilometres along the border was built in the past two years with the use of hundreds of thousands of workdays put in by the local people who were joined by their fellow-countrymen from other provinces.

On the other side of the border, desolation reigns on a sea of former refugee camps in Thailand while inside Kampuchea vast rice fields of Battambang Province lie as far as the eyes can see. The "Nang Thom" (fragrant beautiful woman), a peculiar rice species of the Long An Province (Vietnam) which has established sisterhood relations with Battambang Province, is thriving there with the help of Vietnamese agricultural experts.

In the province of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey (in the north), Pursat and Kompong Chhnang (near Phnom Penh) or in the coastal province of Koh Kong, to the

southwest, crop farming has been restored. New rice strains supplied by international organizations or by Vietnam are planted.

The coastal province of Koh Kong which includes a number of islands in the Gulf of Thailand and the sea port of Kompong Som, was described by Western newspapers as a deserted place in the dry season because of the scarcity of water on this parched land. Today, from Koh Kong northward to Phnom Melai and Poi Pet, and Sisomphone, green rice and maize fields lie as far as the eyes can see. After many successes in mopping-up operations against remnants of the Pol-Potists and other Khmer reactionary groups, people have returned to their native villages to rebuild their life and set up self-defence units.

Apart from rice, Kampuchea has 40,000 ha of maize and 10,000 ha of tobacco. This country is expanding its rubber acreage to meet the target of 60,000 ha in 1990.

For some years now, Kampuchea has begun exporting rubber and has been developing the manufacture of rubber articles. It is expected to produce tens of thousands of motor tyres for export.

Fishery and cattle farming have been quickly restored alongside cultivation, small industry and handicrafts.

A small industrial establishment on Phnom Penh's outskirts, for example, is producing bicycles, oxygen, acetylene, fabrics, and matches.

Kampuchea has restored its traffic system: most of its provinces have built steel-and-iron bridges. At the moment, the 770 metres long bridge Chroi Chang spanning the Tonle Sap River is being built by the state. The whole railway line which was left in ruin under the Pol Pot regime has been restored and a good part of railway equipment has been repaired with the help of Vietnamese specialists. In 1986, for example, the Kampuchean railway service repaired two bridges and built nine new ones.

These economic achievements recorded by the Kampuchean people in difficult conditions are vivid demonstrations of the correct leadership of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea headed by President Heng Samrin, and the stability of the People's Republic of Kampuchea which is winning more and more support from the entire Kampuchean people who are uniting more closely to rebuild and defend their homeland.

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CSO 4200/316

PAPER REPORTS OFFER TO REPATRIATE REFUGEES

BK040045 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Feb 87 p 2

[Text] Kampuchea will welcome home any refugees moved from a special resettlement centre in Thailand to guerrilla-controlled camps along the tense border between the two countries, the official SPK news agency said yesterday.

The pro-Vietnamese government in Phnom Penh was also ready to hold direct or indirect talks with the Thai Government on repatriation of Kampuchean refugees without demanding diplomatic recognition, it said, quoting a Foreign Ministry statement issued on Monday, Reuters reported.

A move from the Khao-I-Dang camp to the border, due to start later this month, would put the refugees "once again under the thumb of the Pol Pot murderers and company, and their fate will become darker than ever before," said the agency monitored in Bangkok.

The Thai Government plans to move Khao-I-Dang's 24,000 residents, most of whom want to be resettled overseas, to border camps run by the three resistance groups fighting Phnom Penh.

Thai military officials said on Monday they would move them to camps belonging to the two noncommunist groups.

They would not move them to camps run by the Khmer Rouge, the third resistance force which is widely blamed for tens of thousands of murders and deaths in Kampuchea while their leader Pol Pot headed the government from 1975 to 1979, they said.

The Phnom Penh Government, which Hanoi installed after overthrowing Pol Pot in 1979, accused Bangkok and Beijing—a key resistance backer—of keeping the refugees hostage to prop up the anti-Hanoi coalition, SPK said.

Along with most noncommunist states, Thailand does not recognise the Phnom Penh Government.

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CSO: 4200/316

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

BRIEFS

CAMBODIAN TELEVISION INTERVIEWS INDIAN CHARGE--Hanoi, 2 Feb (VNA)—The Indian-Kampuchean relations have constantly strengthened in recent years and will be further strengthened in the coming years, stressed A. K. Panday, Indian charge d'affaires A. I. in Kampuchea, in a recent interview with Kampuchea television. The Indian diplomat further said he firmly believed that those relations would further develop in depth. The Indian Government strongly condemned all evil schemes aimed at repeating the genocidal regime's crimes in Kampuchea. A. K. Panday also said that India and Kampuchea had planned to broaden the programmes of cooperation in 1987, particularly in agriculture and stock-breeding. India has sent medicines as emergency aid to Kampuchea, he said. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT 2 Feb 87 OW] /9274

CSO: 4200/316

SITUATION OF VIETNAMESE WORKERS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Paris LE MONDE in French 7 Jan 87 p 4

[Article by Prague correspondent Louise Victor: "Immigrant Workers on 'Patriotic Mission'"]

[Text] Hoang is Vietnamese. He arrived in Prague in 1981 as an apprentice and today he sells shoes. This is an extraordinary promotion. What is more exceptional is that he married a Czech woman who became Mrs Hoangova. His marriage enabled him to leave at last the Vietnamese workers' residence where he had been living for 4 years. Mr and Mrs Hoang, who are expecting a child, live in a housing complex in the Prague suburbs. Is this a successful integration? Rather this is the exception. Ordinarily, the "brother workers" of Vietnam are not there to start a family.

To remain in Czechoslovakia, Hoang had to spend a fortune: 46,000 crowns, or 37,000 francs, paid to the Vietnamese Government as compensation. Vietnam sent him to Czechoslovakia so that he would return as a specialized worker and would assist his native country. Beside this "exception," more than 30,000 Vietnamese men and women are there to serve Czech industry for a period of 4 years.

The two Minh are an example. They come from North Vietnam. With the same name, the war comrades in the regular army have stayed together since then. Today, they are 26 years old and work side by side in a paint shop of Skoda, the Czech automobile industry. They say this is in the context of "a cooperation agreement between Auto-Skoda and Auto-Badinh," the Vietnamese spare parts industry.

Is this forced or voluntary labor? The answer is, at the very least, ambiguous: "We are here on a patriotic mission, we are here to acquire the training from the advanced countries, it is a duty, a mission one must carry out to help our country."

Would they choose between Czechoslovakia and Vietnam? "Life is always better in one's own country," they answered.

The Minh brothers remain reserved. Raised in the party line, they quote Marx at every instance and, although one feels a certain reticence, they do not complain openly of their fate. What are their wages? They earn 2,500 crowns (2,500 crowns equals 2,000 francs); the average wage of a Czech is 2,800 crowns. They get two weeks a year for vacation. In addition, there is a projected study trip to the GDR, arranged by the factory.

What about their social life? Initially, in late 1980, Vietnam sent only men. For the past 2 years, Czechoslovakia is also accepting young Vietnamese female workers. At Mlada-Boleslav, where the two Minh brothers live, there is one Vietnamese woman for 10 Vietnamese men. Of course, the workers residences are segregated by sex. Although one sees many Asians in the streets of Prague on the weekend, one never sees a child. As soon as a worker becomes pregnant, she is sent back to her country.

Immigrant workers in the bloc countries keep a low profile. However, the International Federation of Human Rights was concerned about the fate of hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese who work or worked in Czechoslovakia. The question was to know, of course, if it involved forced labor. Taking up the matter, the International Labor Office asked the Czech Government for authorization to make an investigation in country. That was 3 years ago. There was never any answer. Moreover, how would it find out? Contact with the Vietnamese is almost impossible without the intermediary of one of their fellow citizens. The latter must present himself as a perfect communist.

The place is a movie house on Vaclavske Avenue, the Champs Elysees of Prague, on a Saturday afternoon. There is a discussion about the film "Cotton Club". Loy and Binh finally invite us to dine at their place--a clean and modern residence for 1,000 workers in the suburb, which is comparable to Sonacotra's. At the entrance, we must leave our passports with the watchman. In their room, our hosts prepared a Vietnamese meal with the means available: it is not easy to make egg rolls with what can be purchased in the "potraviný," Czech grocery stores.

For background noise there is the television showing a Soviet spy film. During the dinner, a comrade stops by to sell some of the latest model electronic watches from Hong Kong. We are propositioned. Would we have dollars or a camera to sell? Our hosts remain skeptical but attracted by the possibility of doing business. The room is a real second hand store--a sewing machine, radios, bicycle tires. This is the wherewithal to be a good catch when returning home.

In Czechoslovakia, the Vietnamese run the black market networks of records, cassettes and watches. That is one reason why the Czechs

accuse "their" immigrant workers of all evils. "There are no bikes? That is normal, the Vietnamese buy them to take home," one hears.

That is only one rumor which circulates in the country. Here are others: a Vietnamese reportedly killed a Prague doctor with a hatchet because the latter refused to give him medicine; better still, the Vietnamese are said to spread the plague in the country.

Ideal Labor

The origin of this "organized" immigration was an agreement signed in late 1980 between the Czech Government and the Vietnamese Government, through which young Vietnamese are sent to the brother country to acquire specialized work training in 4 years. They are found in the chemical, textile, iron and automobile industries. They are often in dangerous positions. They are out of view--never on a subway platform, broom in hand, or in the street, swaying to the rhythm of a jack hammer. Occasionally one finds some female Vietnamese nursing assistants in the hospital but the presence of these immigrants remains voluntarily discreet.

Czechoslovakia, which is far from reaching the age of robotization, lacks laborers. Women are exhorted to work. In the automobile industry, they make up 40 percent of the personnel. There is another problem inherent in the socialist system; since employment is guaranteed, the least desirable jobs remain vacant. With these conditions, the Vietnamese supply an ideal labor complement--cheap, malleable and politically reliable.

Petr Uhl, a dissident founder of Charter 77, goes so far as to say that the presence of the Vietnamese is a stabilizing factor for the government. "The Asians do the dirty work which prevents conflicts between Czech workers and the authorities." In his opinion, these immigrant workers are held ransom. His "contacts" told him about contributing 15 percent of their wages to the Vietnamese Government and 15 percent to the Czech Government. Petr Uhl is not the only one to explain their presence in economic terms.

Vietnam has a large trade deficit with Czechoslovakia. First, it has not finished paying off its war debt. Hanoi won over Saigon because of the aid of all the "brother countries". Not only has this debt not been paid off but it has grown. Czechoslovakia has continued to supply weapons, manufactured goods and experts. This summer, a protocol agreement was signed for the delivery of locomotives.

What can Vietnam offer in exchange if not its labor? Czech authorities moreover contemplate setting up factories in country to use the local labor. However, there is a major drawback which makes the government

hesitate for the moment: it is impossible on the scene to "select" the workers. It is the selection which makes the system reliable. Vietnamese workers in Czechoslovakia feel they belong to an elite, all the more so because their compatriots who are sent to the Soviet Union, Bulgaria and, to a lesser degree, the GDR have more difficult living conditions. In Czechoslovakia, they do not live too badly and one can amass a small nest egg, advantages which guarantee the silence and docility of this labor force. When one is born in Hanoi, spent one's childhood in a country at war, then Czechoslovakia is already the West.

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BRIEFS

SHRIMP PROJECTS--According to the terms of an agreement worked out in Hanoi in October, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) will take part in the project to breed shrimp in brackish water in the Nghia Binh province. The project, which is to be carried out in 2 years, includes the establishment of a breeder shrimp farm on an industrial level and an experimental farm designed to improve and disseminate breeding techniques in brackish water. The Artemia project for breeding crayfish in the Mekong delta received assistance from the FAO. According to an agreement signed in October, the international organization will pay \$80,000 to finance the first stage in the work which has been entrusted to the Can Tho university. [Text] [Paris DOAN KET in French Nov 86 p 21] 9824

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FASHION SHOW IN HANOI REPORTED

Paris DOAN KET in French Nov 86 p 21

[Text] The Hanoi Union of Small-scale and Cottage Industry Cooperatives has just begun producing fashion clothing.

A fashion model show--the first of its kind--took place in Hanoi. The 68 models reflected masculine and feminine fashion that could be called "chic," because it revealed a sure taste for elegance without falling into loud, costly luxury.

For young people, whose penchant for fantasy is readily admitted, there were sweat shirts, much appreciated in Vietnam, coats, and sweaters. For children, they had designed dresses, hats, and overalls. For older people, bamboo canes, and silk pajamas.

However, as one would expect, the attention of the designers was focused on feminine attire. Based on national clothing, they designed slightly modified dresses to heighten the slimness so highly prized in Vietnamese women. More modern entries were blue jeans, assorted long-sleeved blouses and pants, evening dresses, and summer dresses, completed by shoes, handbags, umbrellas, the whole forming a collection rich in colors and styles. Sports enthusiasts also found their choice, from bathing suits to track suits.

According to master designer Vu Quy Phi, 54 years of age, one of the winners in the fashion competition, "the main thing consists in the harmony of the beautiful according to European and Vietnamese esthetics. My 30 years of experience and the inspiration derived from an examination of foreign catalogs helped me to design an ensemble that combined western fashion and oriental characteristics."

"Our dressmakers are able to make any kind of clothing suggested by our clients," added Kiem, 41 years of age, president of the cooperative. "However," he continued frankly, "we have to make an enormous effort to catch up with our foreign colleagues, while at the same time avoiding the imitation of 'cliches'." The shortage of materiel is a major handicap for us. We hope to be able ourselves to create a specifically Vietnamese fashion, to adorn Hanoians, increase orders within the country, and also those from outside."

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CSO: 4219/12

CHRONOLOGY

Hanoi VIETNAM COURIER in English No 11, 1986 p 32, No 12, 1986 p 32

15 September - 14 October

[Text]

16-22: A delegation of the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions headed by its acting President and General Secretary Pham The Duet, attends the 11th congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions held in Berlin.

18: The Soviet Women's Committee and the Soviet Children's Fund send 15 tonnes of goods including school equipment and other necessities to Vietnamese children to help make good the damage done by Typhoon Wayne.

18-26: A delegation of the Vietnam-FRG Friendship Association headed by Professor Hoang Dinh Cau, Vice-Minister of Public Health, pays a visit to the Federal Republic of Germany on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Association's foundation. On this occasion, Truong Chinh, President of the SRV State Council, confers the Friendship Order on the FRG-Vietnam Friendship Association.

19: Hanoi: Exchange of Instruments of ratification of the addition to the treaty delimiting state borders between Vietnam and Laos.

20: Quang Nam-Da Nang: Inauguration of the An Diem bridge, 63 metres long and 5 metres wide, and the 135-metre access roads on either side of this bridge spanning the Con river and serving the construction site of the An Diem hydropower station.

23-25: Ho Chi Minh City: Holding of the 23rd conference of General Directors of News and Press Agencies of Socialist Countries (see Panorama in this issue).

24: Hanoi: Signing of an agreement on cooperation in production and supply of pepper between Vietnam and the GDR.

24-26: Hanoi: Holding of the 3rd Conference of Foreign-Trade Ministers of the Indochinese countries.

24 September-1 October: A delegation of the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions, headed by its acting President and General Secretary, Pham The Duyet, visits Italy.

26. Maputo: Signing of an agreement on cooperation in health care between Vietnam and Mozambique for 1986-1987.

--Hanoi: Signing of a plan on cooperation in science, education and culture between Vietnam and Hungary for 1986-1990.

28 September-2 October: A delegation of the Swedish Social Democratic Youth League headed by its Chairwoman Linda Ylva Anna Maria, member of Parliament and member of the National Council of the Swedish Social Democratic Party visits Vietnam.

29. Prague: Signing of a protocol on job training and improving the skills of Vietnamese workers in Czechoslovak factories and enterprises in 1987.

30: The Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam holds a reception on the occasion of China's 37th National Day. (1 Oct 1949-1 Oct 1986). SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach is among the guests.

30 September-1 October: A delegation of the Albanian Commission for Science and Technology headed by its Chairman Ajeta Ylli pays a visit to Vietnam where it attends the 7th session of the Vietnam-Albania Joint Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

30 Sept-5 Oct: Ho Chi Minh City: Holding of the 27th session of the heads of customs departments of socialist countries.

15 October - 14 November

1-4: SRV Vice Foreign Minister Hoang Bich Son visits the Islamic Republic of Iran.

1. Hanoi: Holding of a training course on the "role and influence of modern technology in information and communications at present" under the joint sponsorship of the Asia-Pacific UNESCO, the UNESCO in Vietnam and the Vietnam Journalists' Association.

2-6: Tashkent: A delegation of the Vietnam Women's Union headed by Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh, its Vice-Chairman, attends a seminar on "Asia-Pacific women working for the protection and consolidation of peace in the world."

--A delegation of the MPLA and the government of Angola headed by Kundy Paimama, Politburo member of the Party Central Committee and Minister of State, pays a visit to Vietnam.

3-8: Michael Fitzgerald, President of the International Association of Theatres for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ) (Australia) and Roger Chapman, Director of the Carclew Youth Performing Arts Centre (Australia) visit Vietnam (See Panorama in this issue).

7-9: Didier Bariani, Secretary of State in the French Foreign Ministry visits Vietnam.

7-11: A delegation of the Vietnam Institute of Sciences headed by its Director Nguyen Van Hieu visits Laos.

7-14: A Vietnamese table-tennis delegation headed by Hoang Linh, member of the Secretariat of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship with Other Peoples and standing member of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association, attends the 8th Asian Table-Tennis championships held in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, China.

8: Hanoi: Signing of aid projects of UNDP and FAO for Vietnam's Aquatic Products Department.

9-10: Hanoi: Holding of a Conference of Directors of Museums of history of the revolution and the workers' movement of socialist countries.

14: Hanoi: Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong receives a delegation of the "Great Journey for Peace" headed by Yvonne Fagerberg, member of the Swedish Organization for Relief to Children and the Swedish Social Democratic Party (see Panorama).

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